

Hafa Adai!

Miss Earth: Earth Day is everyday. **PAGE 2**

OPD provides status updates on many federally funded projects. **PAGE 3**

\$1

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Palacios says IPI no longer viable

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said yesterday that the Commonwealth needs to fully accept the fact that Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC is no longer a viable company to move forward with the casino industry.

See **PALACIOS** on Page 4

Marianas experiences extreme drought

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Just one week since the National Weather Service reported that the drought situation in the Marianas was severe, as of yesterday it has reported that drought conditions have intensified to the extreme.

Last week, NWS' weekly regional outlook report stated that the Marianas remains in D-2 (or severe drought). However, it added that drought conditions will only continue to worsen due to ongoing dry weather conditions.

As of yesterday, NWS re-
See **DROUGHT** on Page 4



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

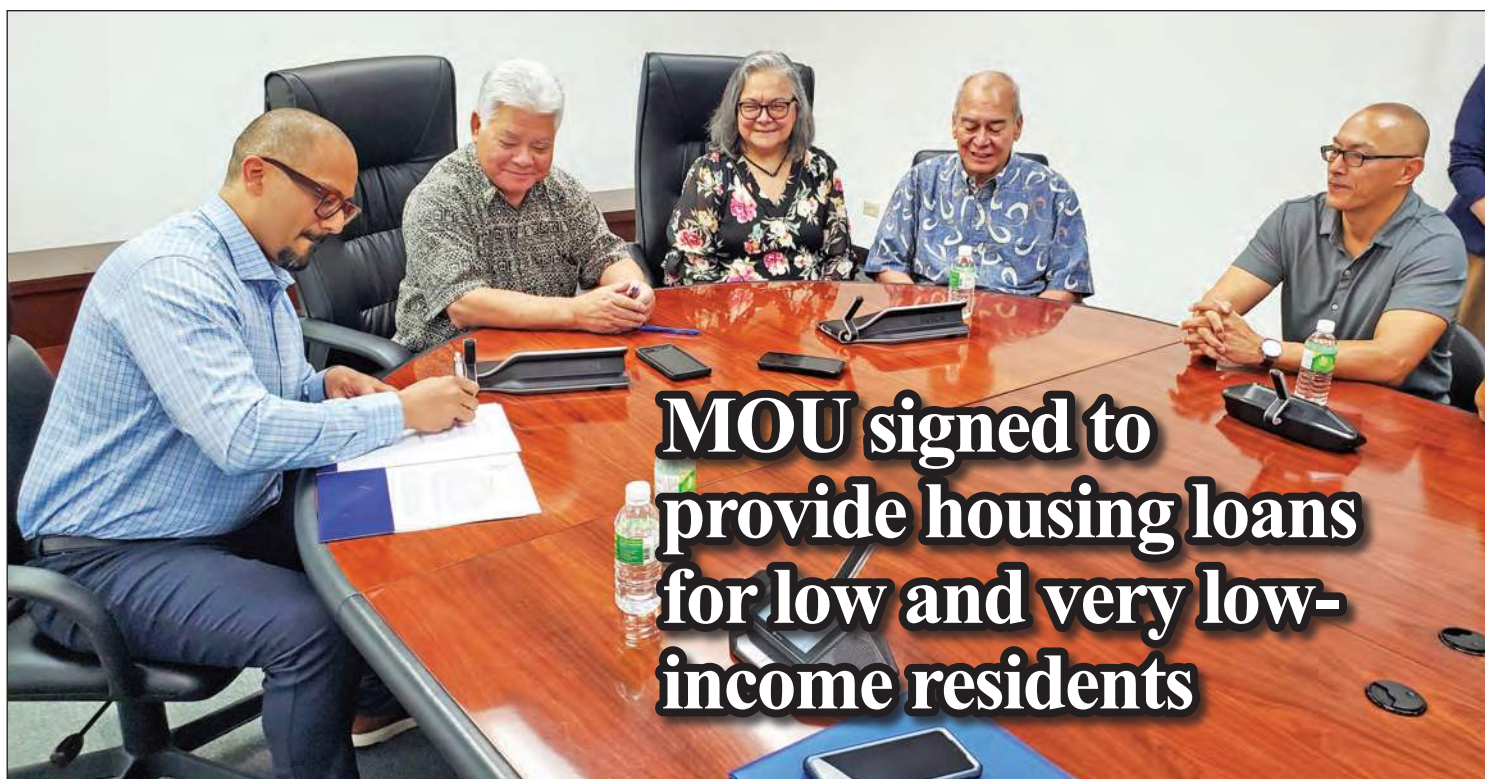
Special assistant to the administration Oscar Babauta leaves the courtroom of Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho after he testified at parole chief Nick Masga Reyes' bench trial yesterday.

IN FORGERY CASE Tables turn in favor of Reyes following third day of trial

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The bench trial of chief parole officer Nick Masga Reyes on charges of forgery and misconduct in public office allegations pursuant to the extension of his employment contract entered Day 3 yesterday. The twist, the testimony of one of the government's key witnesses (and special

See **TABLES** on Page 4



MOU signed to provide housing loans for low and very low-income residents

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Housing Service administrator Joaquin J. Altoro signs an amended Memorandum of Understanding between USDA and the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. to facilitate the provision of housing for low and very low-income residents of the CNMI. Also in the photo, from right, are NMHC corporate director Jesse Palacios, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), NMHC board chair Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane, and Gov. Arnold I. Palacios. The MOU signing was held in the Office of the Governor's conference room yesterday afternoon.

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Housing

See **MOU** on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

Community members interested in pursuing higher education are invited to attend Northern Marianas College's free information session regarding the upcoming Summer 2024 semester on Wednesday, May 8, 2024.

PAGE 6



LOCAL

As part of its 110th anniversary celebration, Atkins Kroll Toyota presented the American Red Cross Guam Chapter with a 2024 Toyota Tacoma last April 23 during a ceremony at the AK Toyota Showroom in Tamuning.

PAGE 7



LIFE & STYLE

The defense attorney said his client's accounts of the killing Tupac Shakur in 1996 in Las Vegas are fiction and prosecutors lack key evidence to obtain a murder conviction.

PAGE 11



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Miss Earth: Earth Day is everyday

CHRYSTAL MARINO
Zowie Cruz, 2023 Miss Earth Northern Marianas, shares a smile shortly after her presentation about Earth Day at the Rotary Club of Saipan's weekly meeting last Tuesday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Zowie Cruz, 2023 Miss Earth Northern Marianas, said the island community should make it a habit to treat everyday as Earth Day during the Rotary Club of Saipan weekly meeting last Tuesday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

The CNMI joined the entire world in celebrating Earth Day last Monday, April 22, and Cruz shared how Rotarians and the public might better protect and cherish the planet.

Cruz's message highlighted that "Earth Day is Everyday" and shared that the six R's in waste management—Reuse, Reduce, Recycle, Repair, Rethink, and Refuse—are keys in sustainable development.

She noted that shopping with reusable bags; planting trees; conserving water, electricity and energy; choosing sustainable products like recyclable or eco-friendly items; even choosing to walk, bike, or use public transportation can help the environment, reduce carbon footprint, and provide a better future for the next generation.

Cruz also pointed out that as individuals add these patterns into their everyday lifestyle—whether conserving water when watering plants simply by using a bucket instead of a hose, shorter shower time, turning off the faucet or electricity even for a moment when they're not using it—it can help build up to a better and more Earth-friendly environment.

She added that these small

steps were important especially with the effects of climate change. "Our islands get effected by climate change the most. I hope that you guys are able to apply this not just today and not just this month because it's Environmental Awareness Month and Earth Month but try to use it everyday."

In regards to meat consumption, Cruz shared most large meat companies release greenhouse gases when processing meat in their factories and through eating less meat, or cutting it out completely, one can help the environment in the long haul.

Cruz, however, said meat is as an important source of protein and an important staple in a lot of people's diets and recommends buying locally raised and sold meat. She said that way the meat is not only fresh, it's also not processed.

"The more you have local farms here, it's better...you can still eat beef, as long as you don't have to do it [processed] like that."

Cruz said that she had also begun practicing these conservation efforts and knows that many of the Rotarians not only know about these points, but also put this knowledge into action, most evidently through their community efforts and cleanup projects.

"Thank you very much for your unwavering commitment to the community. I know you guys do a lot of cleanups and eco-friendly initiatives, so thank you very much for being the guiding light that our community can always look up to," she said.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Opening: Electrician
Job Summary: The Electrician, under the general direction of the Operations Manager, performs duties and responsibilities involving the installation, maintenance, and repair of electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures; ensures that work is in accordance with relevant codes.
Education: High School Diploma/GED
Work Experience: One year of relevant work experience.
To Apply: Interested individuals may submit a resume to: Winzy Corporation, P.O. Box 5054 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950; Tel#: (670)234-3870; located at Winzy Corporation, Monsignor Guerrero Road, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, MP.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Opening: Air Conditioning Technician
Job Summary: The Air Conditioning Technician, under the general direction of the Operations Manager, performs duties and responsibilities involving the installation, maintenance, and repair of air conditioning, equipment, and fixtures; ensures that work is in accordance with relevant codes.
Education: High School Diploma/GED
Work Experience: Four years of relevant work experience.
To Apply: Interested individuals may submit a resume to: Winzy Corporation, P.O. Box 5054 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950; Tel#: (670)234-3870; located at Winzy Corporation, Monsignor Guerrero Road, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, MP.

OPD provides status updates on federally funded projects

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of Planning and Development provided a Senate panel with updates on

the status of many federally funded projects in the CNMI last Tuesday.

Acting OPD director Elizabeth Balajadia said OPD and the office that they oversee in-

cludes projects that are funded from different federal programs, such as the Economic Development Administration and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

They have the capital improvement program, which is funded under the 702 Covenant funding, said Balajadia during the Senate Resources, Economic De-

velopment and Programs and Gaming Committee meeting Tuesday afternoon.

She said under their office they also handle the Federal Emergency Management Agency funded hazard mitigation project.

OPD deputy director Chris

Sablan said under the EDA, which is a branch from the U.S. Department of Commerce, they have two construction projects—the \$21-million Oleai Sports Complex and Cultural Events Center and the \$9-million Garapan

See OPD on Page 4

Jury trial for officer whose gun was used in shooting of minor begins May

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The police officer whose service firearm was allegedly used in the Kagman shooting that saw a minor being shot in the face will have his day in court with

his jury trial set for May 6.

Raymond Lizama Saralu, the police officer whose service firearm was allegedly used in the Kagman shooting that saw a minor being shot in the face, is set to appear before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho on

May 6 for his jury trial.

Saralu's trial was initially set for January 2024.

However, because the victim in the case had to undergo extensive surgery, the trial was pushed back.

Saralu, 27, is facing six charges connected to his al-

leged failure to secure his police firearm properly, which police said resulted in an accidental discharge of the weapon that injured a 7-year-old child on May 21, 2023.

Saralu was also charged with one count of obstructing justice for removing his



government-issued firearm, which was allegedly the actual gun used in the shooting, and replacing it with his personal firearm.

Each of the five counts is punishable by a fine of \$1,000 and imprisonment of not more than 180 days, or both.

Saralu also faces one count of the storage of firearms in-

volving his government-issued firearm, Glock 19 Gen5 9mm, which caused serious bodily injury to the minor victim. The offense is punishable by a \$5,000 fine, and/or five years' imprisonment.

The obstructing justice charge against Saralu is punishable by one-year imprisonment and a fine of \$1,000, or both.


**Commonwealth Zoning Board
Board Meeting**


Thursday, May 02, 2024 | 2:00 PM
Multi-Purpose Center • Susupe, Saipan
Tel: 670-234-9661/2 • Fax: 670-234-9666
E-mail: ZoningBoard@cnmizoning.com

AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of 05/02/24 Meeting Agenda
4. Adoption of 04/25/2024 Meeting Minutes
5. Communications
6. Public Comments (not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:

1. **Conditional Use Application #2024-0892** – Western Pacific Telecom Service Co. proposes to utilize a space measuring **16.11' (L) x 16.1 (W)** within an existing residential duplex for its "Office Use". This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Tract No. 21714-1-1 in the village of As Lito. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

C. Old Business

1. None

D. New Business

1. To correct the zoning districts on Zoning Map sheet 27 of 29 for Lot # 005 I 587, Lot # 005 I 588, Lot #005 I 589, Lot # 005 I 590, and Lot # 005 I 586 from Public Resource to Village Residential (as authorized under Section 1309 of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013)

E. Report from Zoning Administrator

1. Operations (Permitting and Enforcement)
2. Office Updates

F. Report from Legal Counsel

G. Executive Session

H. Miscellaneous

1. Board discussion on:
 - a.) Status of EnerGov system
 - b.) Policy on Zoning Clearance Fees and Permits
 - c.) Standard Improvements on Customer Service
 - d.) Public disclosure of Administrative Reports prior to Board Review in duly published Board meetings

I. Announcements

J. Adjournment

/s/Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

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or email info@marianaclassic.com.






IPI creditors file stay on proceedings pending bankruptcy petition

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC creditors have filed their respective notices for automatic stay on

pending proceedings. Last Tuesday, IPI creditors who have pending judgments against IPI under the U.S. District Court for the NMI—specifically Joshua Gray, USA Fanter,

former IPI Turkish workers, Kan Pacific, James Whang, Rongkun Xiao, and Stephen Abonita—filed notices for automatic stay instantly staying all proceedings against defendant IPI.

The notice was filed pursuant to IPI recent voluntary petition for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy. “Notice is hereby given that defendant filed a Voluntary Petition under Chapter 11

of the United States Code on April 19, 2024, commencing [bankruptcy] proceedings. As a result of the filing of the Petition, pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 362(a) the instant proceeding is stayed with respect to defendant,” the notices state. Last Friday, April 19, IPI

filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy with the District Court for the NMI.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

HANMI occupancy at 36% in March 2024

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported 36% average occupancy rate among its 12 member hotels for March 2024, a 13% increase compared to 32% average occupancy among 11 hotels in March 2023. A total of 26,205 of 73,394

available room nights sold during March 2024 compared to 17,058 of 63,085 available rooms sold in March 2023. Average room rates were \$112.04 compared to \$132.69 last March. “Compared to March 2023, when the Marianas received

only 58 flights from Korea, last month we received 102 flights, creating more opportunity for hotels to secure bookings,” said HANMI chair Dennis Seo. However, Seo said in addition to ongoing competition with other beach destinations like Guam, Thailand, and the Philippines, the current exchange rate is negatively

affecting both bookings and room rates in the Marianas. “As the U.S. dollar continues to strengthen, Koreans are now preferring more cost-effective destinations such as Japan and Vietnam, where the Korean won is stronger. Hotels and other travel trades partners are having to lower our prices to compete. We need to diver-

sify our source markets beyond just Korea and Japan. We are very excited that Hong Kong Airlines is resuming its exclusive direct service to Saipan for its customers starting on April 29,” Seo said. (PR)

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

MOU

From page 1

Service signed yesterday an amended Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate the provision of housing for low and very low-income residents of the CNMI. The MOU if for USDA Rural Housing Service’s sin-

gle-family housing loan programs. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) witnessed the signing of the MOU in the Office of the Governor’s conference room. The signatories to the MOU are NMHC board chair Merced “Marcie” M. Tomokane, NMHC corporate director Jesse Palacios, and USDA Rural

Housing Service administrator Joaquin J. Altoro. The MOU replaces any prior MOUs executed by RHS and NMHC as far back as March 26, 1979. The purpose is to establish and define set roles for RHS and NMHC with respect to the making, guaranteeing, and servicing of RHS single-family housing loans and grants to owners and

lessees of CNMI lands. Under the MOU, RHS is prepared to make such loans and grants, while NMHC seeks to facilitate and support the provision of USDA housing assistance programs in the CNMI. NMHC corporate director Palacios said with the amended MOU in place, they’re ready to “rock and roll with this program again” as it is some-

thing that the CNMI needs. Palacios said the last two such loans they had were back in 2008 and that from that point on, it was just mostly U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development programs.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

TABLES

From page 1

assistant to the administration) Oscar Babauta testifying that he personally pushed for a contract extension for the parole chief. Yesterday, after lengthy testimonies from parole officers

Shirlene Laniyo and Vince Taitano, it was apparent that there has been some kind of animosity within the Board of Parole with Taitano stating that he didn’t get a long well with Reyes. In addition, during Laniyo’s testimony, it was brought to light that a group chat con-

sisting of parole officers was created and it excluded Reyes. In addition, in these chats, Laniyo testified that photos of Reyes’ documents (like the request for personnel action extending his contract) were shared on the chat but deleted. After reading the messages out in court, it seemed as

though the officers were not pleased that Reyes would possibly get an extension. Then, in a shocking turn of events, when Babauta (essentially a trusted advisor to the administration of Gov. Arnold I. Palacios) was called unto the stand, he shared that he personally spoke with Reyes be-

fore his contract expired back in September 2023, stating he could “man his post” and that he would essentially discuss the issues regarding his contract with the governor. A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

DROUGHT

From page 1

ports that drought in the Marianas has intensified to D-3 conditions (or extreme

drought). Meanwhile, D-4 (or exceptional drought) persists across islands of Yap State and Majuro, and the northern Marshall Islands. “Extreme to exceptional

drought persists across the Marianas, Yap State and the northern Marshall Islands. Much-needed rainfall continues to fall across the region south of 8N, including Palau, Chuuk, Pohnpei,

Kosrae and Majuro. Yap, Ulithi and Fais could see some showers now through Wednesday morning as a disturbance passes by to the south, but overall dry weather will prevail in the

coming weeks,” said NWS. In addition, NWS warns about an ongoing wildfire threat. A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary	Opening Date	Closing Date
2024-013	CDBG-DR Planning & Support Program Manager (1-Position) Re-Announcement	UNGRADED \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00 Per annum	April 24, 2024	May 9, 2024 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net and www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Lulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary	Opening Date	Closing Date
2024-011	CDBG-DR Construction Inspector (1-Position)	UNGRADED \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00 Per annum	April 11, 2024	April 26, 2024 4:00 PM
2024-012	CDBG-DR Accountant (1-Position) Re-Announcement	UNGRADED \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00 Per annum	April 11, 2024	April 26, 2024 4:00 PM

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/s/
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Corporate Director



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/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ., F-0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537
EMAIL: mwhitespn@yahoo.com
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

DEELYN MANOSHI : CIVIL ACTION
CAMACHO KEREMUS, : NO. 23-0401
VINCENT ANTHONY :
CAMACHO KEREMUS :
AND JOHN CHRISTIAN :
CAMACHO KEREMUS, :
Plaintiffs, :
-v- :
MSJ, LLC, :
Defendant. :

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorney, who address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated April 12, 2024, by order of the Court.

/s/
Clerk of Court

Division of Employment Services relocates to 1323 Ascension Drive

The CNMI Department of Labor's Division of Employment Services has relocated to a newly renovated building at 1323 Ascension Drive on Capitol Hill.

The newly renovated building was designed to enhance services offered to the public and build capacity within the division.

Funding for this project was made possible by the Department of Interior, the Office of the Governor, and the Office of Grants Management.

The Department of Labor also plans to transform the division's previous location at Building 1334 into a comprehensive One-Stop CNMI Job Center. This project aims to revitalize the building into a dynamic hub for workforce development, offering a com-

prehensive range of employment services and resources under one roof.

According to Labor Secretary Leila Staffler, "The renovated center will feature a state-of-the-art facility and knowledgeable staff dedicated to helping individuals navigate the job market and achieve their career goals."

Once completed, the renovated center will provide job seekers with access to job placement assistance, career counseling, skills training programs, resume workshops, and networking opportunities. Employers will also benefit from services such as recruitment assistance, workforce training, and business support.

"The CNMI One-Stop Job Center will serve as a beacon of hope and opportunity for indi-

viduals seeking to enhance their career prospects and contribute to the local economy," said Staff-

ler. "Stay tuned for updates as we work towards creating a vibrant hub for workforce devel-

opment in our community."

The Department of Labor is committed to fostering eco-

nommic growth and empowering individuals to reach their full potential. (PR)

CNMI OSHA to host training on preventing construction-related fatalities

In an effort to enhance workplace safety and reduce the risk of fatalities in the construction industry, CNMI Occupational Safety and Health Administration will be hosting a training workshop focusing on the OSHA "Fatal Four."

The OSHA "Fatal Four"—falls, electrocutions, struck-by incidents, and caught-in or between hazards—are responsible for the majority of construction-related fatalities. This two-day training workshop will delve deep

into these critical areas, providing participants with essential insights, strategies, and best practices for mitigating risks and ensuring a safer work environment.

The training will take place on May 20 and 21, 2024 at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center. Each day will have two sessions, with the first one taking place from 8am to 12pm and the second session occurring from 12:30pm to 4:30pm.

Led by expert trainers well-

versed in OSHA regulations and industry standards, this workshop will feature interactive sessions, case studies, and practical exercises tailored to the unique challenges of the construction sector. Participants will learn how to identify potential hazards, implement effective safety measures, and promote a culture of vigilance and accountability on construction sites.

This training is ideal for construction workers, supervisors, safety officers, proj-

ect managers, and anyone involved in the construction industry. By equipping participants with the knowledge and skills to address the Fatal Four hazards, the training aims to significantly reduce the incidence of workplace accidents and fatalities.

Slots are limited, so early registration is encouraged. To reserve a seat or for further inquiries, interested individuals are asked to contact Elaine Pangelinan at e.pangelinan@dol.gov.mp. (PR)

Administrative Services Office adjusts hours for staff certification training

In a commitment to providing exceptional service while ensuring staff proficiency, the CNMI Department of Labor announces temporary adjustments to its Administrative Services Office hours on Capitol Hill.

Effective April 24 through May 29, 2024, the CNMI DOL's Administrative Services Office located in Building 1356 on Capitol Hill will be closed every Wednesday from 3pm to 4:30pm. This closure is to facilitate comprehensive staff certification training sessions aimed at enhancing service delivery and documentation compliance.

During this period, all other

services provided by the CNMI DOL will continue to operate as usual. Labor apologizes for any inconvenience this temporary closure may cause and appreciates the public's understanding as Labor invests in the continuous professional development of its staff to better serve the community.

For further inquiries or assistance, contact the CNMI Department of Labor at (670) 664-3196 or email at info@dol.gov.mp.

The CNMI Department of Labor is committed to empowering individuals to reach their full potential through education and training. (PR)

APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

SAFE JAMBOREE

JOIN US FOR A FAMILY FUN DAY!

Join us for a day filled with live music, captivating singing, and dance performances. Connect with our partner agencies through their informational and activity booths. Indulge in delicious food from local vendors, and don't miss your chance to win exciting raffle prizes!

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School Field

More Info :
For more information, please contact the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence at (670) 234-3878 or email info@EndViolenceNMI.org.

- ✓ Kids Activities & Games
- ✓ Partner Agency Lip-Sync Battle
- ✓ Free SAAM T-shirts while supplies last!

TRASH COLLECTION SERVICES

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING AND ON-SITE ASSESSMENT WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 3RD, 2024 AT 9:00AM AT THE CHC CONTINUING EDUCATION ROOM RIGHT BEFORE THE CAFETERIA.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID
ITB24-CHCC/PHS-PRAMS-012
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
PREGNANCY RISK ASSESSMENT MONITORING SYSTEMS (PRAMS)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MAY 13, 2024 **TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)**

"LEASE OF VEHICLE"

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP24-CHCC/GSS-011

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 30TH, 2024 **TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)**

TRASH COLLECTION SERVICES

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

This project is supported by Grant No. 15JQVW-21-GG-00814-RURA awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, US Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/proposal/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

NMC to host free info session for summer 2024 semester on May 8

Community members interested in pursuing higher education are invited to attend Northern Marianas College’s free information session regarding the upcoming summer 2024 semester on Wednesday, May 8, 2024.

The info session will be held at the Olympio T. Borja Memorial Library at the NMC Saipan Campus at As Terlaje, with doors opening at 5:30pm for registration. The session will cover topics that include financial aid options and the admissions process.

Participants of the info session will qualify to have their application and placement test fees waived for NMC’s upcoming summer 2024 semester, a savings of about \$75.

Incoming students who have attended a Start Smart Seminar, Cash for College, or Climb Higher Seminar in the past year can avail of having their application and placement test fees waived for the summer 2024 semester.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a Bachelor of Science in Education (Concentration in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Rehabilitation and Human Services, or Special Education), Bachelor of Science in Business Management (Concentration in Accounting or without Concentration); Associate of Arts in Business, Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration (Emphasis in Accounting, Business Management, or Computer Applications), Associate of Applied Science in Hospitality Management, Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts (Emphasis in Education, Health and Physical Education, Pre-Engineering, Social Work, or without Emphasis), Associate of Science in Nursing, Associate of Science in Agriculture, Associate of Science in Natural Resource Management, Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice, and Associate of Science in Fire Science Technology. The certificate programs at NMC include Basic Law Enforcement, Business Management, Computer Applications, Early Childhood Education, Fire Science Technology, Hospitality Operations, Nursing Assistant, and Small Business

Management.

NMC’s summer 2024 semester will begin on June 17, 2024. A list of the classes that are offered can be found at www.marianas.edu. For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at (670) 237-6769/70/71/72 or email admissions@marianas.edu. **(PR)**

UOG hosts symposium on future of the CHamoru Language on May 4

The public is invited to a free symposium on the future of the CHamoru language at the University of Guam. It will be held from 10am to 12 noon on Saturday, May 4, in the Lecture Hall on the UOG campus and will be livestreamed on Zoom.

A decreasing number of people speak CHamoru as a first language, and fewer still raise their children speaking it. Because of this, CHamoru is increasingly in danger of being lost and is currently undergoing significant changes. The University of Guam was awarded a National Science Foundation grant under the Documenting Endangered Languages program to document these changes and to document the language as spoken by first language speakers on Guam.

The grant, Goggle yan CHachalani Mo’na i Fino’-ta (chachalani.com), is led by Dr. Robert Underwood, former president of UOG, and Dr. David Ruskin, former chair of the linguistics program at UOG. This project helped train a dozen local students and CHamoru teachers in documentary linguistics to build Guam’s capacity to produce archive-quality audio recordings and transcripts. This cadre of documenters conducted interviews with expert speakers, which are now being transcribed, translated, and marked for grammatical content.


The recordings will be placed at the University of Hawaii’s Kaipuleohone Archive as well as at the Micronesian Area Resource Center. These materials will be freely available to the CHamoru community, the general public, and researchers worldwide to help foster scholarship and understanding of the language.

Underwood observes, “An exciting development in recent years is the addition of hundreds of second language speakers of CHamoru. This will assist in maintaining the language past the next generation. But we do need to understand how CHamoru was spoken by generations past. Chachalani provides a path forward to use past knowledge to advance new understandings.”

The symposium, co-hosted by I Kumision I Fino’ CHamoru and the UOG College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, will discuss the project and the possible futures of the CHamoru language. Speakers include Robert Underwood, Ruskin, and Janice Toves, Project consultant Sera Taitano, UOG Libraries members Dean Monique Storie, Dr. Ken Kuper, and Ryan Shook, Kumision members Rosa Salas Palomo and Hope Cristobal, Department of Education member Jimmy Teria, and a panel of younger speakers including Dakota Camacho, Terrence Diego, and Fu’una Sanz.


The symposium will be held on Saturday, May 4, from 10am to noon, in the UOG CLASS Lecture Hall, or virtually on Zoom (<https://zoom.us/j/96476836212>). No registration is required. Additional information is available at <https://chachalani.com/>

For more information, contact Ruskin at (671) 727-1266 or Underwood at (671) 727-7715. **(PR)**



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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AMENDMENT NO.1
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

RE-OPENING OF THE HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE FUND (HAF) PROGRAM
April 18, 2024

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is re-announcing the availability of the Homeowner Assistance Fund Program that was made possible through the US Department of the Treasury. In FY 2022, The CNMI was allocated a total amount of **\$4,158,268** in HAF funds, of which approximately 15% or \$623,740 will be used for administrative expenses and approximately 85% or \$3,534,528, will be used for the following types of assistance for **CNMI homeowners**:

- 1) Mortgage delinquency assistance- *an eligible homeowner may qualify for assistance of up to \$25,400.00 to be used for homeowner's primary residence*
- 2) Mortgage payment assistance- *an eligible homeowner may qualify for assistance of up to ~~\$20,400.00~~ \$30,600.00 (not to exceed a period of 12 months 18 months) to be used for homeowner's primary residence*
- 3) Past due and/or annual home-related insurance premiums- *an eligible homeowner may qualify for assistance of up to \$1,716.00 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) to be used for homeowner's primary residence*
- 4) Utilities and Broadband Assistance:
 - a. **Utilities:** Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to \$6,000.00 through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence **(to address delinquencies in utility payments inclusive of trash collection services)**. Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to ~~\$1,500.00~~ \$3,000.00 or \$500.00 per month **with future payment assistance** (not to exceed a period of ~~3 months~~ 6 months) through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence.
 - b. **Broadband:** Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to \$600.00 through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence (to address delinquency in broadband or home internet service payments). Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to ~~\$150.00~~ \$300.00 or \$50.00 per month **with future payment assistance** (not to exceed a period of ~~3 months~~ 6 months) through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence

Note: Applicants who have availed of HAF assistance previously are welcomed to re-apply. Applicable conditions will be discussed with the HAF Specialists.

Eligibility Criteria
Eligible Homeowners:

- Must show proof of homeownership
- Must be a resident of the CNMI and the assisted home must be the primary residence.
- Must meet the income limit: less than or equal to 150% area median income or less than the median income of the United States, whichever is greater (See income limits below)
- Must show proof of experiencing COVID-related financial hardship after January 21, 2020, including a hardship that begun before January 21, 2020 but continued after that date
- Statement of current inability to resume mortgage payments due to unemployment, underemployment or other continuing hardship
- ~~Statement of current ability to resume any required regular payments after account is reinstated (OR) Ability to resume any required regular payments~~

For Delinquency Assistance:

- Mortgage Delinquency Assistance: Must show proof of mortgage delinquency (must be at least one month delinquent)
- Insurance Arrears Assistance: Must show proof of insurance arrears (must be at least one month in arrears)
- Homeowner is at least one installment payment in arrears on one or more of the following: utilities, such as electric, gas, home energy, and water OR internet service, including broadband internet access service


For Future Payment Assistance:
HAF Specialists will discuss requirements with the applicants.

Income Limits

FY 2024 HAF Income Limits Summary for Northern Mariana Islands								
	1-Person	2-Person	3-Person	4-Person	5-Person	6-Person	7-Person	8-Person
Greater of 100% AMI or 100% U.S Median Income	\$97,800	\$97,800	\$97,800	\$97,800	\$97,800	\$97,800	\$97,800	\$97,800
Greater of 150% AMI or 100% of U.S Median Income	\$97,800	\$97,800	\$97,800	\$97,800	\$97,800	\$97,800	\$100,850	\$107,350

The pre-application for the HAF Program will be available, starting **Thursday, April 4, 2024**, at the NMHC Main Office and Planning/HAF Office in Garapan, Saipan and the Tinian and Rota Field Offices. The pre-application will also be available online on NMHC's website, www.nmhc.gov.net (Public Notice/Announcements->Homeowner Assistance Fund Plan). Those who are interested in reviewing the HAF Plan and details of the program's terms can also visit the NMHC website. The application process will be ongoing until a notice is issued by NMHC and will be on a **first come, first serve basis**. Applications will only be accepted at the NMHC main and field offices. Should you have any questions, please contact any of the HAF admin specialists at (670) 233-0073/4/5/7.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director



Tinian Field Office
Tel: (670) 433-9213
Fax: (670) 433-3690

“NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency”

CDBG-DR Office
Tel: (670) 233-9447/9448/9449

Rota Field Office
Tel: (670) 532-9410
Fax: (670) 532-9441

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Dental Care
670-233-1100

Marianas Dental Care
670-234-3810

Paradise Dental
670-234-4040

Seventh Day Adventist Dental Clinic
670-234-6323

Smile Marianas Dental Clinic
670-235-2378

Tinian Health Center*
670-433-9233

Rota Health Center*
670-532-9461

*** Appointments will be based on the CHCC Dental Clinic's monthly visits to THC & RHC**

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ORAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH APRIL


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This ad was supported by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The contents are solely the responsibility of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation. And do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC.

Atkins Kroll donates 2024 Toyota Tacoma to ARC

TAMUNING, Guam—As part of its 110th anniversary celebration, Atkins Kroll Toyota presented the American Red Cross Guam Chapter with a 2024 Toyota Tacoma last April 23 during a ceremony at the AK Toyota Showroom in Tamuning.

The American Red Cross donation kicks off AK's anniversary celebration and is integral to the week-long festivities.

Alex Yap, president of Atkins Kroll-Guam and Saipan, said, "Our motto is 'Here for Guam, Here for Life,' and

we are starting off our anniversary week celebration by reiterating our commitment to the community we serve and recognizing organizations that make our island a better place to live, work, and play. Our mission is to align what we do best as an automobile distributor, which is mobility, and connect to organizations that need our support to continue to do their good work in the community."

» Donation kicks off AK's 110th anniversary celebration

"Our donation of the 2024 Toyota Tacoma to the American Red Cross is not just a vehicle, but a symbol of our commitment to the community. This marks AK's second vehicle donation to the charity, a testament to our ongoing support," added Yap.

Chita Blaise, chief executive officer of the American Red Cross Guam Chapter, said, "We are grateful to AK for this generous donation to

the American Red Cross. We are fortunate to have received past vehicle donations from AK. Typhoon Mawar damaged one of the Toyota trucks we previously received, so this donation is crucial for our organization's operation."

According to Blaise, losing one of its trucks placed the Red Cross in a challenging position. She said, "We rely on the use of vehicles to allow us to fulfill our mission, and our chapter has been operating

with one vehicle to complete the activities in our service delivery that includes feeding and sheltering clients in need, assessing clients for mental health needs, and surveying property damages to assist families. AK's donation will greatly improve how we respond in emergencies and allow us to serve more needy residents."

In 2023, ARC provided 169,000 meals to residents affected by Typhoon Mawar. The organization responded and provided financial assis-

tance to 1,500 families whose homes were either damaged or destroyed and supported more than 20 families who lost their homes due to fire.

Yap added, "The Atkins Kroll leadership team recognizes the extensive humanitarian aid that the American Red Cross Guam Chapter provides the residents of Guam and is proud to provide this 2024 Toyota Tacoma to support ARC's service mission. We thank ARC for its valuable service to our community and applaud its vital role in making Guam a better place." (PR)



Yap



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA)

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com



NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) Board of Directors hereby gives notice that a special meeting is being called on Friday, April 26, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Meeting Room located on the first floor of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS:

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

III. SPECIAL MEETING ITEM(S):

1. Rota East Harbor
2. Rota Terminal and Transfer
3. Supplemental Funding Request and Board Sanctioning: Saipan Airport's Air Traffic Control Tower Renovations Project CM Amendment No. 2

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

V. MISCELLANEOUS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed. Video Conferencing is also available via Zoom.
Zoom link: Meeting ID: 898 0318 0837 Passcode: 573227

JOSE C. AYUYU
Chairman, Board of Directors



NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Western Pacific Telecom Service Co.

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Western Pacific Telecom Service Co. proposes to utilize a space measuring 16.11' (L) x 16.10' (W) x 11.10' (H) for its "Office Use." This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Tract No. 21714-1-1 in the village of As Lito. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: May 2, 2024
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, May 1, 2024. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, at 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/
Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman



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Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Mark Rabago** EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Tiny speaker stands up: Mike Johnson finally aids Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan

Louisianan Mike Johnson became House speaker by accident, when eight renegade Republicans voted with the Democrats to eject the unfortunate Kevin McCarthy from the chair in October. After a number of more senior members failed to win enough support, the booby prize went to Johnson.

Johnson has been an exceptionally weak speaker, and not just due to the narrowness of his majority. He gave in to the right-wing mob to impeach Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas on fake charges and he jumped to obey Donald Trump's reckless command to scuttle the Senate's hard fought bipartisan measure on immigration reform. The amount of actual legislation passed by this Congress on behalf of the country is a record low.

But on Saturday, Johnson did right by America and right for the world in bringing to the floor several bills to provide desperately needed military aid to democratic allies in Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan under attack from the nasties of the globe: Russia, Iran and China.

Each aid package only passed on Democratic votes, as isolationist cranks in the GOP said no to all three measures.

To their credit, every Democrat backed the \$8 billion for Taiwan and not a single Democrat voted against the \$61 billion for Ukraine, as the pro-Putin caucus captured the party of Ronald Reagan with a majority of the Republicans saying no to Volodymyr Zelenskyy as he tries to fend off the Russians.

There is also a shamefully anti-Israel claque on the left of the Democratic Party (including New Yorkers Nydia Velázquez, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Jamaal Bowman) that rejected the \$26 billion for Israel, which is fighting Hamas terrorists in Gaza and Iranian ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and drones.

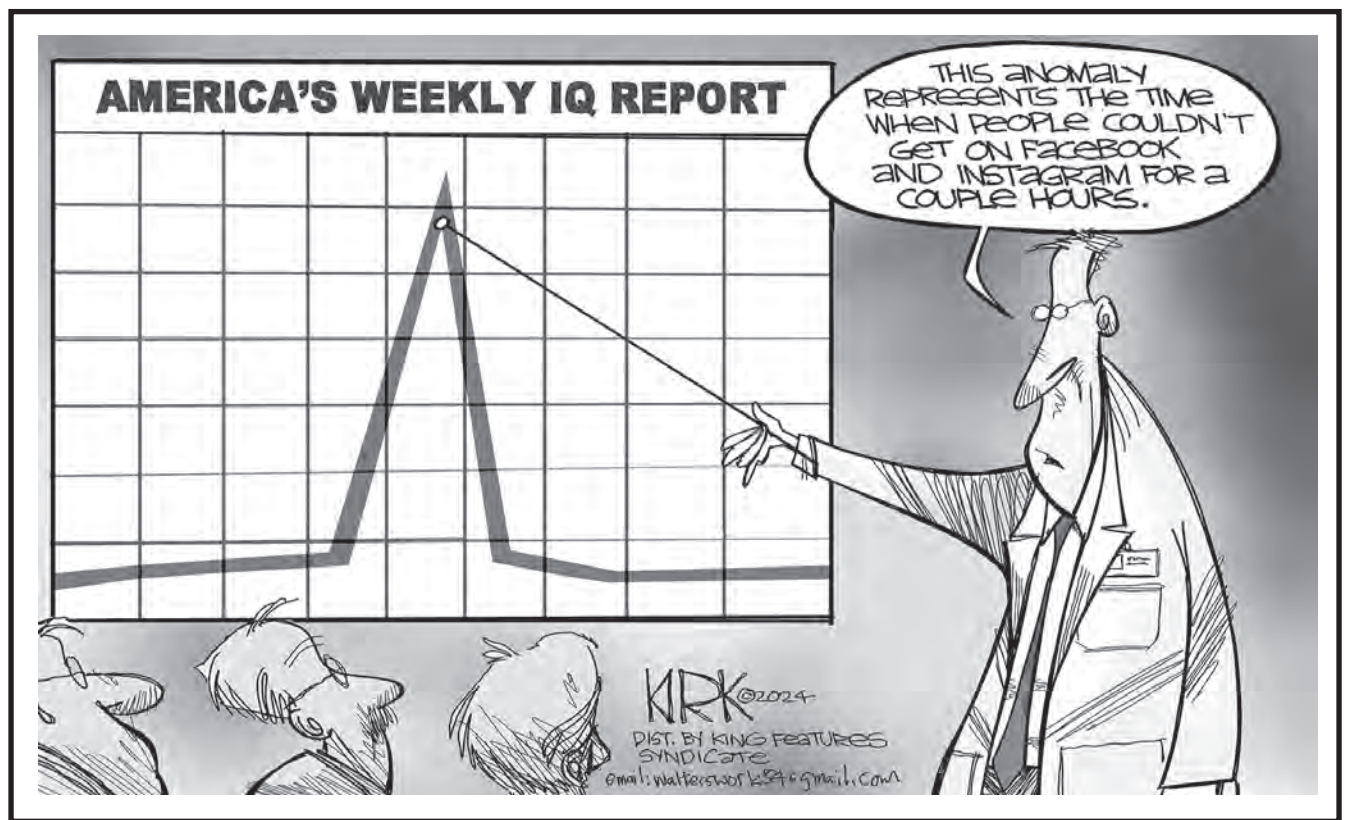
But overall, there were large majorities for standing with our friends overseas under siege by Moscow, Tehran (and its Hamas and Hezbollah buds) and Beijing.

That all the bills relied on the Democrats and Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries is a slight against Johnson within his party's conference. He now has three crazies calling for him to resign or be tossed à la McCarthy. First in line is nutjob Marjorie Taylor Greene, who filed a motion to vacate the chair. Joining her was Thomas Massie and Paul Gosar, a pair of Grade-A kooks.

Johnson had 218 on his side for the Saturday roll calls compared with Jeffries' having 213, but that GOP total immediately dropped by one when Mike Gallagher of Wisconsin resigned right afterwards. Gallagher was one of only three Republicans to vote against the terribly wrong impeachment of Mayorkas (another dissenter resigned a month ago).

And next week is a special election in Buffalo which should add one more Democrat, so the balance will be

See TINY on Page 9



Trump's hush-money criminal trial could be a cure for 'Trump amnesia'

WASHINGTON—Before Donald Trump's hush-money trial in New York got underway, pundits predicted that the proceedings could be a media bonanza for the former president. During this year's Republican primaries, they noted, Trump's popularity rose every time he was indicted.

But so far, the trial, on charges that Trump covered up illicit payments to an adult filmmaker and actor to influence the 2016 election, hasn't made him look like much of a hero.

He's appeared to fall asleep in the courtroom more than once. He's grumbled at potential jurors. He's been reprimanded by the judge. He looks more like an desperately unhappy defendant than a potential commander in chief.

And it's likely to get worse. Over the next six weeks, the trial may include testimony from Stormy Daniels, the porn performer with whom Trump allegedly had a one-night stand, and Karen McDougal, a former Playboy model who accepted money to conceal another alleged affair.

The tawdry details will produce plenty of tabloid drama—but not the kind Trump reveled in when he was a young, publicity-hungry mogul. (Trump has denied having affairs with the women.)

More important, the trial might begin to cure voters of the affliction known as "Trump amnesia"—the tendency to forget all the reasons they voted against the presumptive Republican nominee in 2020.

Pollsters and campaign consultants who conduct focus groups, organized discussions with voters, say they run into it all the time.

Celinda Lake, one of President Joe Biden's pollsters, said she discovered the syndrome when she asked voters how they felt about Trump's impending trial over the events surrounding the violent Jan. 6, 2021, invasion of the Capitol.

"What court case?" one of the voters asked.

"These were swing voters, and about half of them weren't sure what we were talking about," Lake recalled. "And I said, 'Well, you know, the insurrection, and that he was the one who provoked it.' They go: 'Oh, yeah, I kind of forgot about that.'"

The reasons for the epidemic of memory loss aren't mysterious. Trump left office more than three years ago—and for the last two years, voters have been focused on rising prices and mortgage rates, problems they blame on Biden.

When Trump left office in 2021 after his followers sacked the Capitol, the Gallup Poll logged his approval rating at a dismal 34%. By last year, with memories no longer so fresh, voters' views had softened: 46% said they thought his presidency had been pretty good—a phenomenon some have called "Trump nostalgia."

Trump has stoked that trend over the last three years by claiming ceaselessly that he produced "the greatest economy in the history of the world" (it wasn't) with "no inflation" (also untrue).

Democrats and anti-Trump Republicans hope the trials could dent the former president's support by changing the focus of news coverage, at least for a time, to his many misdeeds.

By DOYLE MCMANUS

Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times.



Trump is facing four different criminal prosecutions: separate federal and Georgia indictments accusing him of trying to undo the 2020 election, a federal indictment accusing him of illegally holding classified documents, and the New York hush-money case. It's not certain that any of the other three will reach trial by the election.

If he is convicted in any of the four proceedings, polls suggest that a significant number of voters might well desert him.

A Reuters/Ipsos poll this month reported that 13% of voters who currently favor Trump say they won't vote for him if he is convicted of a felony.

If even a fraction of those voters carry out their threat, the former president's apparent lead over Biden could evaporate. In 2020, a vote shift of less than a percentage point in three close-run states would have changed the outcome in the electoral college.

It's reasonable to ask whether a conviction in the New York case, which legal scholars consider the weakest of the indictments Trump faces, would affect voters' behavior.

But polls have found that most voters believe the hush-money charges qualify as weighty crimes despite their tawdry origins. In the Reuters/Ipsos poll, 64% of respondents said they consider the New York charges serious, including 40% of Republicans.

Not everyone is convinced.

"I think the Biden campaign is whistling past the graveyard on this," said Whit Ayres, a veteran Republican pollster who is not working for Trump. "The issue is not whether voters remember Trump's antics. The issue is that they are accurately remembering the economic differences between the two presidencies."

All of which is true.

Chances are, the hush-money trial in New York isn't going to swing the election by itself.

But if Trump is convicted of a felony—especially if he is also convicted in more than one of the four trials he faces—that could change enough votes to make a difference in an election that's likely to be razor-close.

At the very least, the New York trial isn't doing Trump any measurable good, despite his daily denunciations of the judge, the prosecutor and the gag order that doesn't seem to be gagging him.

No wonder he looks so annoyed.

Sleepwalking into civil war

If you're searching for insight into the likelihood of a second American civil war, you won't find it in "Civil War," a film written and directed by Alex Garland and currently in theaters. When the movie starts, the U.S. is already in full-blown war against itself. Things have gotten so bad that California and Texas have formed a coalition—strange bedfellows, indeed!—to resist an apparently authoritarian president who has somehow forced his way into an unconstitutional third term.

Garland doesn't explain how things got to this sorry pass, but for the purposes of the movie, it's largely immaterial. The civil war in "Civil War" is mostly background for a road trip movie in which stock characters make their way from New York to Washington amid chaos, troop movements, executions, torture and mass burials.

In fact, in some respects the possibility of a real civil war is trivialized by its cinematic portrayal, which is more concerned with human relationships and journalism than with the conditions that lead to violence in a hypothetical United States of America.

A moviegoer could plausibly leave the theater without being particularly moved to wonder: "Could it happen here?"

For that momentous question, consider Barbara F. Walter's "How Civil Wars Start and How to Stop Them," published in 2022. Walter is a political scientist who has studied civil wars for three decades, particularly the circumstances

conducive to the outbreak of civic violence.

Walter reports on her work on the Political Instability Task Force, an effort initiated by the CIA to identify factors that indicate a nation's vulnerability to civic unrest. The task force came up with 38 elements that expose a nation to risk, such as income inequality, discrimination, extreme factionalism and diminished confidence in elections.

One of the most predictive factors is "anocracy." Strong democracies do not have civil wars; neither do full autocracies. But nations that embody elements of both democracy and autocracy—anocracies—are particularly vulnerable. According to Walter, in January 2021 the U.S. slipped into the dangerous middle ground of anocracy.

Of course, a modern American civil war would not resemble the blue versus gray of 1861-1865. Modern civil wars are fought differently. Even the organized troop movements depicted in Garland's "Civil War" would be unlikely. But the essential ingredients for a consequential level of society-disrupting violence are all present in the U.S.: committed factionalism based on demographic changes; fringe groups' capacity to organize on social media; and, above all, an overabundance of powerful firearms and enough Americans willing to use them, a volatile mixture that doesn't require much of a spark to explode.

Some have suggested that modern America doesn't have issues

By JOHN M. CRISP
Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service.



sufficiently contentious to provide such a spark. I'm not so sure.

In the early days of our country, the issue was taxes. In 1786, Massachusetts farmers took up arms against the pre-constitution U.S. over taxes in the short-lived Shays' Rebellion. The Whiskey Rebellion of 1791—taxes again, on whiskey this time—required the intervention of George Washington.

In 1861, the issue was slavery, which embodied a disagreement so powerful and intractable that it led to the Civil War and the deaths of 620,000 soldiers.

Is modern America so divided by irresolvable conflicts that the only solution is violence? For example, are our pro-choice and anti-abortion factions any less committed to the outcome of that conflict than the abolitionists and the southern plantation owners of the antebellum South?

And what about the outcome of an election? By definition, in a democracy once the method we use for resolving conflicts—elections—has failed, what options remain?

In short, it's naive to imagine that modern America doesn't face issues for which citizens would be willing to take up arms. And we haven't even mentioned the Second Amendment.

Countries nearly always sleepwalk into civil war. Walter's essential message is a warning against complacency in the face of a threat that seems inconceivable. Walter says that she has interviewed many people who have lived through civil wars. They all say the same thing: "I didn't see it coming."

Watching America's future and pastime intersect

The first cup of black coffee had not quite done its job, as I was slowly paging through Wednesday morning's *New York Times*. But page B11 sure did.

There, filling up the entire page, was my childhood. Two big headlines stretched across the top and the middle of page B11 evoked a rush of memories that were very special—yet quite different. One memory was pure fun. The other, powerful and meaningful to the real making of America.

The headlines reported that Whitey Herzog and Carl Erskine, two famous baseball stars in their mid-90s, had just died. Just reading their names rekindled memories about my fleeting but forever moments with two of their teammates who were more than just sports stars—they were cultural constellations. We're talking now about Satchel Paige and Jackie Robinson. They were icons of the era when America belatedly but finally began lurching into racial and civil rights change.

Whitey & Satchel & Me: Reading Herzog's obit, my mind began replaying a 1957 moment when I was one of the kids waiting for autographs after a night game at the old minor league Miami Stadium. Paige, baseball's famously aged pitcher with his ageless arm, was still at it. He'd unretired to star for Bill Veeck's new AAA minor league Miami Marlins. (Remember: Paige had seemed destined for a career in the Negro leagues until the Brooklyn Dodgers shattered major league segregation by signing Robinson a decade earlier. Next, Veeck, owner of the Cleveland Indians, signed outfield star Larry Doby, then Paige.)

Paige was always the last to leave—and they'd turned out the stadium lights before Paige finally emerged with a young Herzog.

"No autographs tonight—way too dark to see," Paige told us. So all the kids left. Except one. Holding a red bound autograph book, I looked up at this tall, slim historic icon and decided to go for it.

"Oh, I can imagine how hard it must be for your old eyes to see tonight, Mister Paige," I said. "But my young eyes can still see quite clearly."

Herzog convulsed in guffaws. Paige almost did too—but caught himself and launched into a bit of vaudeville comedy: "OLD EYES? I STILL GOT YOUNG EYES! I'LL SHOW YOU. GIVE ME THAT BOOK!"

The old star took my book and, with a swoosh of loops, signed: "Satchel Paige." The Legend returned my book with a flourish of major league triumph. End of story.

(Except this: Years later, when I was in college, my parents moved overseas. And my poor mom, rushing to downsize and depart, accidentally threw out my red autograph book filled with spring training signatures of baseball's greats. It still hurts.)

Jackie & Me: Erskine's obit told tales of his friendship with Robinson. And that clicked a mental replay of my most special moment with a childhood (and adulthood) hero. It actually occurred when I was a *Newsday* Washington correspondent. I had arrived early for a New York City interview with Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, when his earlier guest emerged into the lobby. He was a large, white-haired Black man who walked like an old man, slowly and with difficulty. Working to make sure I didn't seem like the world's oldest autograph-seeking

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive.



kid, I introduced myself to Jackie Robinson. My idol took hold of my arm and asked if I could walk him outside and help him cross the busy Central Park West to his car and driver. And yes—I was replaying the thrill of seeing him racing to the plate, sliding under Yogi's mitt—stealing home in the 1955 World Series! Just the other day.

Diabetes had crippled his leg, diminished his vision. After his car drove off, I put my childhood memories where they belonged, composed myself and interviewed New York's governor. Robinson died in 1972 at just 53.

The best tribute to Robinson I've seen was written by his Dodger teammate and friend, Erskine, in his book: "What I Learned From Jackie Robinson." The Erskines' fourth child, Jimmy, had been born with Down syndrome. He was raised by his parents, medaled in the Special Olympics, had a career in a restaurant and died last November at age 63.

"I often felt Jackie came into my life to teach me how to channel energy and anger toward what was happening around me with Jimmy and society's nonacceptance of Down syndrome and other birth defects," Erskine wrote. "... Jackie had his Rookie of the Year and his Hall of Fame plaque, and my Jimmy went on to earn gold medal after gold medal in the Special Olympics. I wish Jackie had lived to see those days because Jackie had a lot to do with Jim's success."

Today, amid the tumult and craftily faked anger that passes as news, it helps to remind each other that what has always made America great has been the values of our shared pastimes—never our politics.

TINY
From page 8

217 to 214, making the Three Stooges of Greene, Massie and Gosar as kingmakers.

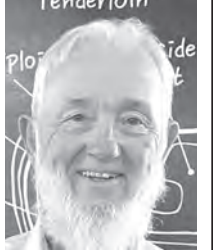
If they try another coup to topple another speaker, the Democrats will need to save Johnson. That will further weaken him within his own party and strengthen the GOP's outer fringe, but the center can hold.

Johnson's political career may not last past this year, but his short tenure will be remembered for when America came to the aid of Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan. And that's a lot more important than the fortunes of a congressman who no one had ever heard before October.

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH Shakespeare's birthday

LITERARY NOOK
By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. Joey is the Poet Laureate of Tinian, celebrating 40 years in the CNMI.








W. SHAKESPEARE birthday on April 23 / ? /
Baptized April 26, 1564. Death on April 23, 1616.

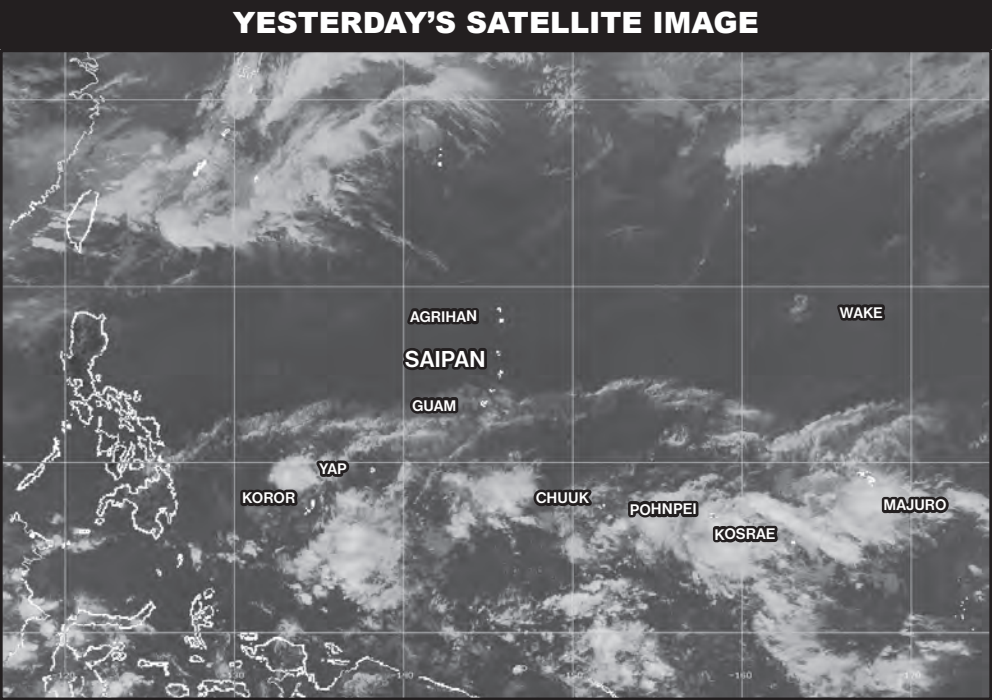
'TO THINE OWN SELF BE TRUE' from Hamlet.
Here is a famous speech from Shakespeare's tragic play Hamlet. See how many bits of advice you can find in it that are in common parlance today There are changes in some wording as they are used now.

OLONIUS' ADVICE TO LAERTES

"There, - my blessing with you!
And these few precepts in thy memory
See thou character, - Give thy thoughts no tongue,
Nor any unproportion'd thought his act.
Be thou familiar, but by no means vulgar.
The friends thou hast, and their adoption tried,
Grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel;
But do not dull thy palm with entertainment
Of each new-hatched, unfledged comrade. Beware
Of entrance to a quarrel; but being in,
Bear't that the opposed may beware of thee.
Give every man thine ear, but few thy voice:
Take each man's censure, but reserve thy judgement.
Costly thy habit as thy purse can buy,
But not expressed in fancy; rich, not gaudy:
For the apparel oft proclaims the man.
Neither a borrower nor a lender be,
For loan oft loses both itself and friend,
And borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry.
This above all: to thine own self be true,
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man."

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of showers.	
86°	79°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°



PICTURE TIME: 9:34 AM WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Due to ongoing rainfall over Guam, the Red Flag Warning has been cancelled for Guam as wet vegetation will make it difficult for fires to start and spread. Rain will continue across Guam and Rota through the morning and is then expected to decrease this afternoon.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 78°	
Palau	Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Majuro	Cloudy	84° / 79°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:56 AM	6:33 PM
Friday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM
Saturday	5:55 AM	6:33 PM
Sunday	5:55 AM	6:33 PM
Monday	5:54 AM	6:34 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	6:28 AM	7:39 PM
Friday	-	7:10 AM	8:34 PM
Saturday	-	7:57 AM	9:32 PM
Sunday	-	8:50 AM	10:30 PM
Monday	-	9:48 AM	11:28 PM

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Fair	68° / 52°	
Beijing	Fair	71° / 45°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	79° / 74°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84° / 72°	
London	Cloudy	52° / 43°	
Los Angeles	Fair	67° / 57°	
Manila	Fair	98° / 83°	
Melbourne	Showers	72° / 57°	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	84° / 77°	
New York	Mostly Cloudy	59° / 45°	
Osaka	Cloudy	71° / 62°	
Paris	Sunny	73° / 52°	
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	63° / 52°	
Rome	Rain	63° / 52°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	75° / 58°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	63° / 54°	
Seoul	Cloudy	75° / 51	
Tokyo	Rain	65° / 59°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	72° / 44°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:29 AM	Low Tide	1.06	
7:40 AM	High Tide	1.84	
2:43 PM	Low Tide	-0.00	
9:31 PM	High Tide	1.86	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 1, 2024

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:10AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:10AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	6:10AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Life & Style

‘Ex-gang leader’s account of Tupac Shakur killing is fiction’

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The defense attorney representing a former Los Angeles-area gang leader accused of killing hip-hop music icon Tupac Shakur in 1996 in Las Vegas said Tuesday his client’s accounts of the killing are fiction and prosecutors lack key evidence to obtain a murder conviction.

“He himself is giving different stories,” attorney Carl Arnold told reporters outside a courtroom following a brief status check with his client, Duane “Keffe D” Davis, in front of a Nevada judge. His trial is scheduled for Nov. 4.

“We haven’t seen more than just his word,” Arnold said of Davis’ police and media interviews since 2008 in which prosecutors say he incriminated himself in Shakur’s killing—including Davis’ 2019 tell-all memoir

of life leading a street gang in Compton, California.

Prosecutor Binu Palal did not immediately comment outside court about Arnold’s statements. Clark County District Attorney Steve Wolfson has said evidence against Davis is strong and it will be up to a jury to decide the credibility of Davis’ accounts.

Arnold said his client wanted to make money with his story, so he embellished or outright lied about his involvement in the car-to-car shooting that killed Shakur and wounded rap music mogul Marion “Suge” Knight at a traffic signal near the Las Vegas Strip in September 1996.

Knight, now 59, is serving 28 years in a California prison for killing a Compton businessman with a vehicle in 2015. He was not called by prosecutors to testify before



AP Duane “Keffe D” Davis, who is accused of orchestrating the 1996 slaying of hip-hop icon Tupac Shakur, is led into the courtroom during a status hearing at the Regional Justice Center, on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, in Las Vegas.

the grand jury that indicted Davis last year.

Arnold said Davis will not testify at trial, but he intends to call Knight to testify. The defense attorney said police and prosecutors lack proof that Davis was in Las Vegas at the time of Shakur’s killing, and don’t have the gun and car used during the shooting as evidence.

“We’ve seen video of everybody else here. Where’s video of him?” Arnold said of Davis. “There’s just nothing saying that he was here.”

Davis has been jailed on \$750,000 bail since his arrest in September. Arnold said Tuesday that Davis has been unable to raise the 10% needed to obtain a bond to be released to house arrest.

Davis, 60, is originally from Compton. Police, prosecutors and Davis say he is

the only person still alive who was in the car from which shots were fired.

Davis pleaded not guilty in November to first-degree murder. If convicted, he could spend the rest of his life in prison.

In his book, Davis wrote that he was promised immunity from prosecution when he told authorities in Los Angeles what he knew about the fatal shootings of Shakur and rival rapper Christopher Wallace six months later in Los Angeles. Wallace was known as The Notorious B.I.G. or Biggie Smalls.

Shakur had five No. 1 albums, was nominated for six Grammy Awards and was inducted in 2017 into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. He received a posthumous star last year on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Kristi Yamaguchi is ‘tickled pink’ to inspire Barbie doll

By TERRY TANG
Associated Press

Like many little girls, a young Kristi Yamaguchi loved playing with Barbie. With a schedule packed with ice skating practices, her Barbie dolls became her “best friends.”

So, it’s surreal for the decorated Olympian figure skater to now be a Barbie girl herself.

“It’s a huge, huge honor. I think a lot of pride comes along with it, not just recognizing the Olympic achievement, but also being recognized during AAPI Month and following in the footsteps of some incredible women that I idolize—Anna May Wong,

Maya Angelou and Rosa Parks,” Yamaguchi told The Associated Press. “It’s hard to see me put in the category with them.”

Yamaguchi, who became the first Asian American to win an individual figure skating gold medal, at the 1992 Winter Olympics, has been immortalized as a doll for Barbie’s “Inspiring Women Series,” Mattel announced Wednesday. The release is timed for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, in May.

This isn’t Yamaguchi’s first doll depiction. In the ‘90s, touring show Stars on Ice put out a line of dolls modeled af-

ter notable skaters. The Barbie version is a lot more detailed.

Mattel duplicated everything the then 20-year-old medalist wore at the Olympics in Albertville, France: the sparkling black-and-gold brocade outfit designed by Lauren Sheehan, the gold hair ribbon and even a red-and-white bouquet like Yamaguchi held atop the podium.

Yamaguchi said both she and Sheehan are “just so tickled pink.”

She also is happy with the doll’s visage.

“It looks like me for sure. You know, the eyes and just the shape of the face. And

then, of course, the hair, for sure. I mean, it has the bangs that are the ‘90s,” Yamaguchi said, chuckling.

She appreciates that the doll’s release comes on the high heels of the blockbuster “Barbie” movie last year. Her daughters, ages 18 and 20, are fans of the Oscar-nominated film. Their initial reaction to their mother being a Barbie? Disbelief.

“When they found out I was getting a doll, they were kind of flabbergasted and being like, ‘What? Like Mom, like how do you qualify? But that’s way too cool for you,’” Yamaguchi said.



AP This image provided by Mattel in April 2024 shows the company’s Kristi Yamaguchi Barbie doll.

When Yamaguchi became a household name in the ‘90s,

most Asian American children were growing up feeling like toys-aren’t-us kids. If you were an Asian parent looking for an Asian doll in the U.S., you likely turned to independent mail-order companies or waited until you were visiting your country of heritage.

Since then, the toy market has evolved somewhat with big companies like Mattel diversifying and independent entrepreneurs filling the void. Two Asian doll lines—Jilly Bing and Joeydolls—launched within the last year, one by an Asian American mother and the other by an Asian Canadian mother. Both could not find dolls that looked like their daughters.

Two daughters make clear whose side they've taken

DEAR ABBY: I have been divorced for nine years. Before that I was a stay-at-home mom raising four children. I had an in-home business, and most of the money went to our family’s needs.

My husband became an alcoholic 20 years into our 28-year marriage. After we divorced, my two adult daughters abandoned me because I receive spousal support from their father. Whenever I let them know how much I miss them, the only answer they give is that they will resume a relationship when I stop “taking the money.”

My younger daughter and I were close for years after the divorce. Then, all of a sudden, everything changed, and she ceased all communication. I used to have wonderful relationships with both. They have since blocked communication with me and moved far away from me and their father.

I would love to have a relationship with them, but everything is a dead end. If you’re wondering, yes, the money is used for living expenses, help, etc. Please help.

INCREDULOUS IN OREGON

DEAR INCREDULOUS: So your daughters have decided to side with their drunkard of a father and are trying to blackmail you into submission. PLEASE don’t allow them to get away with it. Continue taking the alimony to which

you are ENTITLED, and go on with your life. You can only hope that your daughters eventually will see the light. As I see it, you really have no other choice because, at this point, you are dependent on those funds to survive.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am struggling with whether I am obligated to organize a party for our 50th anniversary. I was the main caregiver for my wife until a year ago, when I physically could no longer do it and had to put her in a board and care facility. She has Alzheimer’s, is wheelchair-bound, and must be fed and changed.

I still work during the day, but I help put her to bed at night. On the weekends, I wheel her to a park so she can get fresh air and watch kids on the playground. She perks up when she sees me, and I always feel good when I can get her to laugh about something her goofy husband tried to do or botched.

We have five grandchildren close by, and she has two sisters and a brother and many cousins. One sister visits her often. The care facility is small, but they love parties. Anniversaries are important, but as time goes on, they seem to just come and go. I feel like the luckiest guy in the world to have shared my life with my wife. I would appreciate your thoughts.

PARTY OR NOT IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR PARTY OR NOT: If you think your wife would enjoy it, arrange for a cake and beverages and invite the relatives. Before you do that, though, ask her caregivers if it would intimidate or frighten her to have so much activity going on around her. If it would give you pleasure to do this, you have my blessing. However, please remember that it is not an obligation.

■■■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order “How to Have a Lovely Wedding.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

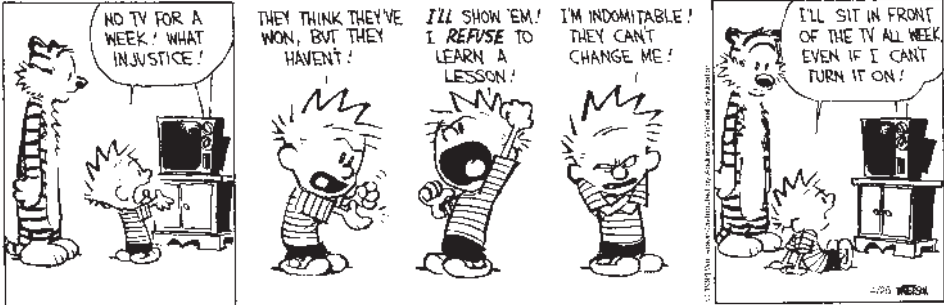
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Run for fun
4 Mumbai dress
8 "— the night before ..."
12 Citric beverage
13 — friendly
14 "Oops!"
15 Possessive case
17 1492 vessel
18 Capote nickname
19 Reacted to pollen
21 Ravel piece
24 Santa's aide
25 Actor Vigoda
26 Caribou's kin
28 Moon-related
32 Platter
34 "What's the —?"
36 Country singer McCann
37 Bar legally

39 Cagers' gp.
41 Asian holiday
42 Snooze
44 Escapee's cry
46 Stuffed Italian pasta
50 Acapulco gold
51 Grand tale
52 Male sex hormone
56 Com-poser Bartok
57 Turner or Fey
58 "Strange Magic" gp.

59 Skater's leap
60 List-ending shorthand
61 Quibble

DOWN

1 Binge
2 Poem of praise
3 Most tame
4 Surgeon's stitch
5 "Do — say!"
6 Guns the engine
7 Peace goddess
8 Melodic
9 Brainiac
10 Top-notch
11 Roe provider
16 Fury
20 Right angle
21 Ordered
22 Kimono ties
23 Vintage
27 Family
29 Element No. 7
30 Sheltered
31 Assess
33 Funnel-shaped
35 Justice Dept. agency
38 Kung — chicken
40 Unprincipled
43 Dish
45 To and —
46 Ms. McEntire
47 Pinnacle
48 Repulsive
49 Monogram pt.
53 Crime lab evidence
54 Inventor Whitney
55 Part of NIMBY

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-25

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jason Lee, 54; Renee Zellweger, 55; Hank Azaria, 60; Al Pacino, 84.

Happy Birthday: Don't hesitate to make a move. Be aggressive, ask questions and discover what's available. Your curiosity will pay off, and the chance to embrace the life you want looks promising. Take the initiative, implement changes that display what you have to offer and set up opportunities that lead you in the direction you want. A passionate approach will attract interest in every facet of life. Your numbers are 5, 13, 25, 27, 32, 38, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't apply pressure to get your way. Focus on making a difference and gaining the most. Refrain from displaying your actions when you'll accomplish more if you work quietly behind the scenes. Know your destination and plan your journey. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't leave yourself open for criticism. Act on your behalf and make things happen. Share your concerns with a passionate display of your willingness to go the distance and get things done. Make the first move, and opportunity will lead to new beginnings. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Give yourself time to think, get the lowdown and devise a plan that doesn't compromise you or anyone else. Question anyone using force to push you in a questionable direction. When you don't have clarity, take a pass. Be safe, not sorry. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Jump at the chance to make a change. Use your imagination and venture down avenues you've never been before. Trying something new and exciting will encourage you to use your skills uniquely. A

position or opportunity looks inviting. Network and expand your circle. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Rely on what you know to help bypass those manipulating and misleading you. Gather the facts and stick to the truth; you'll deter anyone from pressuring you into doing something unnecessary or detrimental. Let your generous spirit lead the way. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Try something new, do things differently and change what you no longer like or enjoy. It's up to you to make the moves that suit you. A lifestyle change can lift your spirits or point you in a better direction. Engage in insightful conversations that offer hope. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Finish what you start. Use your imagination, and you'll find shortcuts to make life easier and keep your costs low. Put more thought into relationships, clear up misunderstandings and share feelings. A financial discrepancy will cause a problem. Get the facts and figures. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Consider your options, and you'll develop a stellar plan to help you turn a negative into a positive. Your intuition won't let you down. Follow your heart, use your imagination and direct your energy into whatever brings the best returns. Live life your way. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Dig in and get things done. Keep busy, and you'll deter anyone who wants to interfere in your business to think twice. Put more thought into how you earn and spend your money. Don't give in to pushy salespeople or anyone dumping unwanted responsibilities on you. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Delegate your time wisely. Make changes to your daily routine that ease tension and make life convenient. Don't waste time on the impossible when you can gain more doing what you do best. Personal improvement and opportunity are within reach and will encourage positive results. ****



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Lessons learned will lead to valuable gains. Listen to your heart, intuition and experience; you will get a clear picture of what to do next. Set high goals and discover what to do and say to get what you want. Personal growth is favored. **



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Luck and peace of mind are favored. Personal, financial and emotional gains are within reach, and an opportunity will change your actions. Let go of the past, move on with an open mind and hope for a better future. Embrace new beginnings. *****



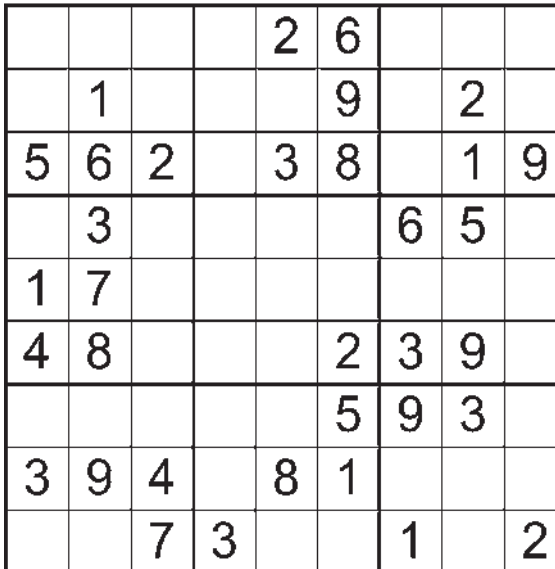
Birthday Baby: You are innovative, secretive and diverse. You are engaging and proactive.

☺: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☹: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☹☹: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☹☹☹: Aim high; start new projects. ☹☹☹☹: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Doncic, Irving lead Mavs over Clippers to tie series as Leonard returns



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Led by Luka Doncic and Kyrie Irving, the Dallas Mavericks bounced back to take away home-court advantage from the Los Angeles Clippers and newly returned and rusty Kawhi Leonard.

Doncic scored 32 points, Irving added 23 and the Mavs won 96-93 on Tuesday night to tie their Western Conference first-round playoff series at a game apiece.

"Obviously it was a must-win and everybody was locked in," said P.J. Washington Jr., who had a big fourth quarter and finished with 18 points. "They punched us in the mouth in Game 1 and we just wanted to respond."

Game 3 is Friday in Dallas.

Leonard had 15 points and seven rebounds in 35 minutes of his first game since March 31. He hadn't played or had any contact practices during that stretch because of inflammation in his surgically repaired right knee.

"I felt good," Leonard said. "We still got more games to play and more time to get better. Just keep trying to get a rhythm back."

The Mavs led most of the game two days after they trailed by 29 points and eventually lost 109-97.

"We played 48 minutes of physical basketball," Dallas coach Jason Kidd said. "Both teams were under 100. It was '90s basketball at its best."

Leonard appeared to pick up



Dallas Mavericks guard Luka Doncic, left, celebrates with forward Maxi Kleber, right, as Los Angeles Clippers forward Paul George walks away in the closing seconds in Game 2 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series Tuesday, April 23, 2024, in Los Angeles.

steam after halftime and was more active defensively.

"Kawhi is one of the best in the world," George said. "He's going to find his rhythm and we're going to find our rhythm around him."

Plagued by poor shooting and behind for much of the game, the Clippers began rallying in the third. Trailing by seven, they outscored the Mavs 19-10 down the stretch to take a 66-65 lead into the fourth. Doncic tied the game at 65-all before

getting called for a technical. Harden's free throw provided the narrow lead.

"It's been a long time since he got a technical, so I think he was just trying to see if he could get a technical," Kidd said. "He is using that to get himself going."

The Clippers kept it up in the fourth, taking a 73-67 lead.

That's when the Mavs scored 14 straight points to take an 81-73 lead. Washington hit a 3-pointer in front of the Clippers' bench, and Doncic and Ir-

ving followed with ones of their own in the spurt.

Zubac's dunk cut the Clippers' deficit to 84-81 before Maxi Kleber and Doncic sank consecutive 3s.

"The second half is the way we should play the whole game," Doncic said. "We got to learn from that."

The Clippers trailed 93-90 on Leonard's basket with 20 seconds left. Irving was called for a foul, which the Mavs challenged and got it over-

turned. Irving made 3 of 4 free throws before George sank a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

"I had two timeouts and we felt we could burn one on a challenge," Kidd said. "Kyrie said he hit the basketball and he was right."

Mavs starting center Daniel Gafford hurt his lower back three minutes into the game, but returned in the second quarter although he was scoreless. Tim Hardaway Jr. sprained his right ankle and didn't return.

TIMBERWOLVES 105, SUNS 93

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Jaden McDaniels scored 25 points for a career best in the playoffs and spearheaded another stifling defensive performance by the Minnesota Timberwolves in a 105-93 victory over the Phoenix Suns to take

Jokic's brother reportedly involved in an altercation after the Nuggets beat the Lakers

DENVER (AP)—The NBA and Denver police are looking into an incident in which a man reported to be one of the brothers of Denver Nuggets star Nikola Jokic was seen punching a fan after the team's buzzer-beating 101-99 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers in the NBA playoffs.

In videos shared by TMZ and other outlets, the man is seen climbing over seats to confront another person at Ball Arena, who he then punches in the face. TMZ said the altercation happened on Monday night just after the Nuggets completed their comeback from a 20-point deficit to take a 2-0 lead in the first-round series.

a 2-0 lead in their first-round series on Tuesday night.

Mike Conley and Rudy Gobert each added 18 points to help the Timberwolves offset the smothering of Anthony Edwards by the Suns, who held the All-Star to 15 points after allowing him 33 in the opener. Edwards went 3 for 12 from the floor.

The teams head to Phoenix for Game 3 on Friday night. Minnesota has held a 2-0 series lead only one other time in franchise history, against Denver in the first round in 2004 en route to a 4-1 series victory.

Devin Booker scored 20 points, Kevin Durant added 18 and sixth man Eric Gordon had 15 for the Suns, who again failed to get their high-octane offense in gear. The big three of Booker, Durant and Bradley Beal combined to shoot 18 for 45, with McDaniels leading the list of reasons for the slump.

PACERS 125, BUCKS 108

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Pascal Siakam scored 37 points and Indiana overcame another fantastic first-half performance from Damian Lillard to beat Milwaukee and tie their Eastern Conference first-round playoff series at a game apiece.

Indiana snapped a 10-game playoff losing streak that began with a Game 7 loss to Cleveland in a first-round series in 2018. The Pacers were swept by Boston in 2019 and by Miami in 2020.

Two nights after scoring all 35 of his points in the first half of the Bucks' 109-94 Game 1 victory, Lillard had 26 by halftime Tuesday and finished with 34.

It wasn't enough. Lillard didn't get enough help with the Bucks once again missing two-time MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo due to a strained left calf.

Philadelphia's Maxey wins NBA's Most Improved Player award

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Tyrese Maxey was sixth in the Most Improved Player voting two years ago, a tribute to the jump he made between his first and second seasons in the NBA.

Voters thought the jump he made from his third year to his fourth was even more impressive.

Philadelphia's All-Star guard on Tuesday night was named the league's most improved this season. Maxey's scoring rose for the third consecutive year, and he finished the regular season averaging 25.9 points, 6.2 assists, 3.7 rebounds and 1.0 steals per game—all career bests.

It's not uncommon for players to see their numbers soar when given a new role, but that wasn't the case with Maxey. Consider: two years ago, he averaged 17.5 points, 4.3 assists, 3.2 rebounds and 0.7 steals in 35.3 minutes per game. This year, he topped all those numbers and averaged only 2.2 more minutes per contest.

"It feels great," Maxey said

on the TNT broadcast where the award was announced. "Somebody like myself, who prides myself on putting in a lot of work and outworking people and finding ways to get 1% better every single time I step in the gym, it feels good for that to come to light, honestly."

Maxey edged Chicago's Coby White in the voting. Houston's Alperen Sengun was third. White averaged 19.1 points, 4.5 rebounds and 5.1 assists per game—all career highs. Sengun averaged 21.1 points, 9.3 rebounds, 5.0 assists and 1.2 steals in 32.5 minutes per game—also all career highs.

Maxey got just over half of the first-place votes and that pushed him just past White. Players got five points for a first-place vote, three for second and one for third. Maxey finished with 319 points to White's 305, but White appeared on 91 ballots compared with 79 ballot appearances for Maxey.

Sengun finished with 92 points for third.

The awards were selected

by a panel of 99 reporters and broadcasters who cover the league. Their ballots were due last week before the start of the play-in tournament. NBA awards take only the regular season into consideration.

Utah's Lauri Markkanen won the MIP award last season. The other finalists from a year ago—Oklahoma City's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and New York's Jalen Brunson—were MVP candidates this season, and both got MIP votes this year as well.

The rest of the voting: Oklahoma City's Jalen Williams was fourth, Brunson was fifth, Washington's Deni Avdija sixth, Brooklyn's Cam Thomas seventh, Orlando's Jalen Suggs eighth, Indiana's Tyrese Haliburton ninth, Phoenix's Grayson Allen and Miami's Duncan Robinson tied for 10th, San Antonio's Devin Vassell and Gilgeous-Alexander tied for 12th, and Indiana's Aaron Nesmith was 14th.

The MIP award was the first of seven individual trophies that will be handed out in the coming weeks, along

with All-NBA, All-Rookie and All-Defensive teams.

The Sixth Man gets announced Wednesday (Sacramento's Malik Monk, Milwaukee's Bobby Portis or Minnesota's Naz Reid); Clutch Player on Thursday (Golden State's Stephen Curry, Chicago's DeMar DeRozan or Gilgeous-Alexander); and Coach of the Year on Sunday (Oklahoma City's Mark Daigneault, Minnesota's Chris Finch or Orlando's Jamahl Mosley).

All those announcements will be made on TNT's pregame shows that night.

The schedule for the other awards has yet to be released by the league. There's Rookie of the Year (San Antonio's Victor Wembanyama, Oklahoma City's Chet Holmgren or Charlotte's Brandon Miller); Defensive Player of the Year (Wembanyama, Minnesota's Rudy Gobert or Miami's Bam Adebayo); and Most Valuable Player (Denver's Nikola Jokic, Dallas' Luka Doncic or Gilgeous-Alexander).

Atlanta beats Marlins 5-0 as Max Fried throws complete game



ATLANTA (AP)—Max Fried pitched a three-hitter for Atlanta's first nine-inning complete game since 2022, Adam Duvall had a two-run homer and the Atlanta Braves blanked the Miami Marlins for the second night in a row, 5-0 on Tuesday.

After a dismal start, Fried (2-0) has recaptured the form that makes him one of baseball's top starters. It helped to be facing the struggling Marlins, who dropped to 6-19 and have gone 20 innings without scoring a run.

They remained 0-for-Atlanta after getting blanked 3-0 in the series opener Monday. With a week still to go in April, Miami is already 11 1/2 games behind the Braves in the NL East.

Fried breezed through the night, throwing 69 of 92 pitches for strikes. He fanned six, didn't walk anyone and needed only 1 hour, 54 minutes to dispatch the Marlins in the major leagues' fourth complete game this season.

PIRATES 2, BREWERS 1

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Andrew McCutchen led off the bottom of the first with a home run for the second straight game, Bailey Falter took a shutout into the eighth inning and Pittsburgh beat Milwaukee.

McCutchen hit the first pitch of Tobias Myers' major league career down the left-field line for his 12th career leadoff homer and his 100th long ball at PNC Park. McCutchen connected off Joe Ross on Monday night in the Pirates' 4-2 win.

McCutchen became the first Pirates player to hit a leadoff homer in back-to-back games since Adam Frazier in 2019. McCutchen is 5 for 8 in two games since manager Derek Shelton moved him to the top of the batting order, boosting his average from .173 to .233.

Pinch-hitter Connor Joe pushed the lead to 2-0 with an RBI single in the sixth inning.

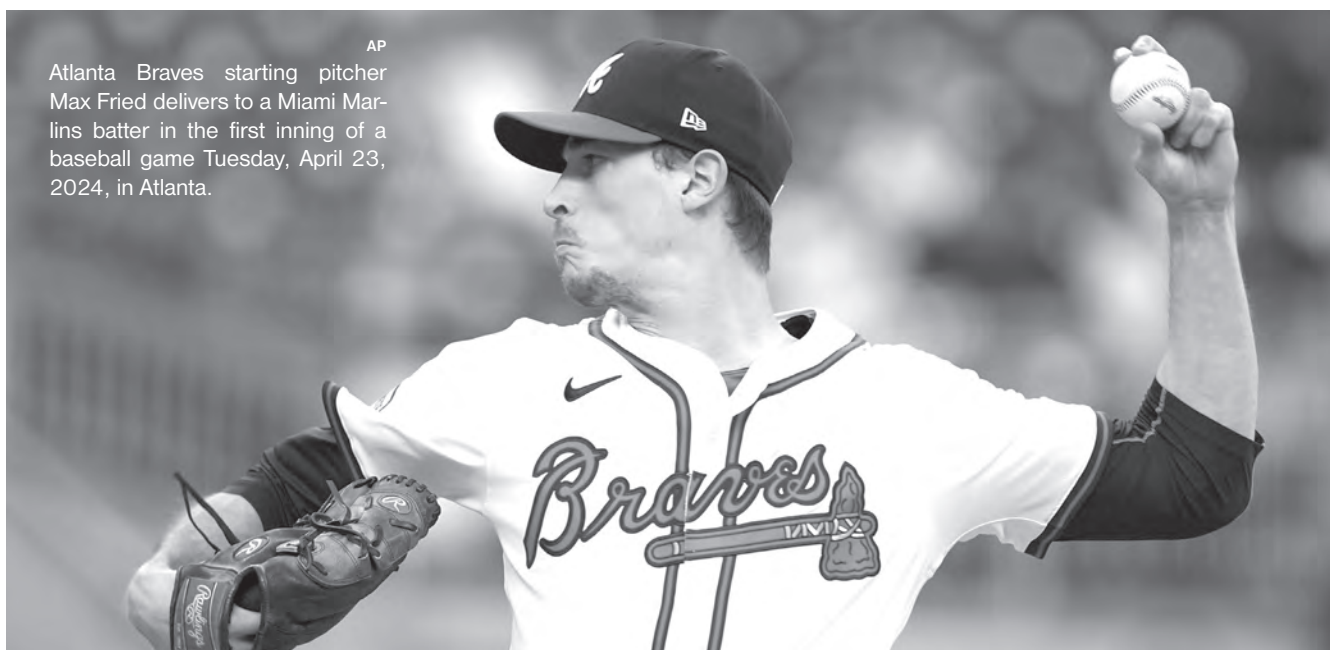
TIGERS 4, RAYS 2

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Riley Greene went deep twice for his first multi-homer game, Mark Canha added a homer and Detroit Tigers beat Tampa Bay.

The Tigers have won the first two of the three-game set and have won four of their last five games.

With the Tigers trailing 2-1 in the eighth, Greene hit a two-shot off Colin Poche (0-1) and Canha added a solo drive to make it 4-2.

Greene put the Tigers ahead 1-0 in the third inning with a 426-foot homer to center off Ryan Pepiot. Greene, who started the day tied with Mookie Betts of the Los Angeles Dodgers for the MLB lead in walks,



AP
Atlanta Braves starting pitcher Max Fried delivers to a Miami Marlins batter in the first inning of a baseball game Tuesday, April 23, 2024, in Atlanta.

drew his 21st free pass on an eight-pitch at-bat in the first.

GUARDIANS 4, RED SOX 1

CLEVELAND (AP)—Tyler Freeman and Bryan Rocchio had RBIs in the seventh inning when Cleveland finally scored against Boston's Tanner Houck, and José Ramírez homered as Cleveland kept up their scorching start with a win over Boston.

Houck (3-2) threw a three-hit shutout against the Guardians last week. He held them scoreless for six more innings before Freeman hit a run-scoring single and Rocchio added a sacrifice fly off reliever Brennan Bernardino.

Ramírez connected leading off the eighth inning against Cam Booser for his fourth homer.

One of MLB's early surprises, the Guardians won their fifth straight to improve the major leagues' best record to 17-6, matching the club's best start through 23 games.

REDS 8, PHILLIES 1

CINCINNATI (AP)—Elly De La Cruz hit a two-run home run, Christian Encarnacion-Strand went 3 for 4 with two RBIs and Cincinnati ended Philadelphia's seven-game win streak with a victory.

Cincinnati's Santiago Espinal also had three hits including a solo homer in the eighth inning, his first since July 29. Fernando Cruz (1-1) pitched 2/3 of an inning in relief.

The Phillies' seven-game win streak was the franchise's fourth-longest in April. They haven't won eight straight games in April since 1953. The Phillies played without Bryce Harper, who's expected to return from the paternity list on Thursday.

J.T. Realmuto and Alec Bohm hit back-to-back doubles in the first for the Phillies' run. Philadelphia's five hits matched a season low.

YANKEES 4, ATHLETICS 3

NEW YORK (AP)—Anthony Rizzo snapped a lengthy power drought with a two-run homer that capped a four-run first inning, and the New York Yankees held on for a win over Oakland.

A day after getting shut out for the fourth time in their first 23 games, the Yankees fell behind when Seth Brown hit an RBI double in the first off Marcus Stroman (2-1).

Giancarlo Stanton had a go-ahead double against Paul Blackburn (2-1) in the bottom half and Rizzo hit second home run of the season and his first since April 7. He had just one extra base hit in 54 at-bats between homers.

Blackburn had not allowed a home run in four previous starts this season.

DODGERS 4, NATIONALS 1

WASHINGTON (AP)—Shohei Ohtani hit a 450-foot homer to the second deck in right field in his first visit to Nationals Park, and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat Washington.

Ohtani's sixth homer of the season was the hardest-hit of his career at 118.7 mph. It was also the hardest-hit home run for a Dodgers player in the Statcast era, which began in 2015. The solo shot in the ninth inning off Matt Barnes made it 4-1 after pinch-hitter James Outman and Miguel Rojas drove in runs an inning earlier to put Los Angeles ahead.

Ohtani has 177 career homers. His previous longball on Sunday gave him the record for homers by a Japanese-born player in Major League Baseball, surpassing Hideki Matsui.

ROYALS 3, BLUE JAYS 2

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Bobby Witt Jr. delivered the go-ahead double in the fifth inning for Kansas City after a costly error by Blue Jays first baseman Vladimir Guerrero Jr., and Kansas City's bullpen shut down Toronto the rest of

the way for the victory.

Chris Stratton (2-1) minimized the damage when he inherited a bases-loaded jam from Michael Wacha in the fifth. He also took care of the sixth before John Schreiber handled the seventh and James McArthur breezed through the eighth.

Royals manager Matt Quatraro opted to send McArthur out for the ninth, and the Blue Jays' Cavan Biggio appeared to begin the inning by beating out a single, only for the call to be overturned upon review. George Springer followed with a single and went to second on Guerrero's groundout, but McArthur got Bo Bichette to ground out to finish off his fifth save of the season.

MARINERS 4, RANGERS 0

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Logan Gilbert allowed only two hits pitching into the seventh inning, Julio Rodríguez hit his first homer and Seattle beat Texas, knocking the World Series champion Rangers out of first place for the first time this season.

Gilbert (2-0) struck out six and walked four while throwing 100 pitches over 6 2/3 innings. It was the franchise-record 11th game in a row for the Mariners to have their starter pitch at least five innings and allow two earned runs or less.

The Mariners (12-11), who missed the playoffs last season a year after ending a 21-year postseason drought, have won eight of those games and moved a half-game ahead of Texas (12-12) in the AL West.

TWINS 6, WHITE SOX 5

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Alex Kirilloff hit a two-out, game-ending single after Byron Buxton led off the ninth inning with a tying homer, and the major league-worst Chicago White Sox fell to Minnesota.

Chicago joined Cincinnati in 2022, Detroit in 2003,

the St. Louis Browns in 1936 and the Cleveland Spiders in 1899 as teams to start 3-20. The 1988 Baltimore Orioles began 1-22.

Trevor Larnach hit a 433-foot, two-run homer in the eighth to get the Twins within 5-4 and help set up the heroics by Buxton and Kirilloff against Steven Wilson (1-2). Buxton hit a line drive off the left-field foul pole, and Kirilloff pulled the ball into right field to score pinch-runner Austin Martin with the winning run.

DIAMONDBACKS 14, CARDINALS 1

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Pavin Smith hit a grand slam and drove in a career-high six runs to help Arizona to a win over St. Louis.

Christian Walker and Kevin Newman also homered for Arizona, which leads the majors with 148 runs.

Tommy Henry (1-1) tossed six effective innings in his first win in five starts this season. The 26-year-old left-hander gave up one run on five hits and struck out six with one walk.

Willson Contreras homered for St. Louis, which has lost five of six.

Smith, recalled from Triple-A Reno on Friday, hit his second career grand slam in the sixth inning. He also had a two-run double in the fifth.

CUBS 7, ASTROS 2

CHICAGO (AP)—Mike Tauchman hit his first two homers of the season, and the Chicago Cubs took a five-run first-inning lead in a win over Houston that dropped the Astros 10 games under .500 for the first time since 2016.

Cody Bellinger hit a two-run homer in the first off J.P. France (0-3) and Tauchman hit a three-run drive. Tauchman added a solo homer in the eighth against Seth Martinez and tied his career high of four RBIs.

Bellinger left after the fifth

inning with bruised right ribs.

Houston has lost three straight and six of seven. At 7-17, the last-place Astros are 10 games under .500 for the first time since an 18-28 start in 2016.

ROCKIES 7, PADRES 4

DENVER (AP)—Brendan Rodgers hit a go-ahead grand slam in a five-run fourth inning, and Colorado beat San Diego for just their second win in 10 games.

Colorado trailed 4-1 before Rodgers' first career slam, a drive into the left-field bleachers on an up-and-in fastball from Michael King (2-2) with an 0-2 count. Rodgers had not homered since Sept. 29 — he hit all four of his homers last year in a 10-day span.

King allowed six runs — four earned—eight hits and three walks in 3 2/3 innings, leaving after a bases-loaded walk to Elehuris Montero.

Ezequiel Tovar added an RBI single in the fifth for the Rockies, who stopped a six-game losing streak to the Padres.

GIANTS 5, METS 1

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Logan Webb pitched eight strong innings and extended his scoreless streak to 19 as San Francisco beat the New York Mets.

Webb (3-1) won his third straight start, striking out four and scattering six hits with a walk. The 27-year-old right-hander recorded 15 ground-ball outs.

Mike Yastrzemski, Thairo Estrada and Michael Conforto each had two hits for San Francisco. Yastrzemski had three RBIs, and Estrada and LaMonte Wade Jr. drove in the other runs.

Starling Marte had three hits for New York, which lost its third straight game after a six-game winning streak.

ANGELS 7, ORIOLES 4

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Mike Trout hit his first leadoff home run since 2012, and the Los Angeles Angels defeated Baltimore to snap a five-game losing streak.

Zach Neto had two hits and drove in two runs as the Angels' six through nine hitters combined for eight of their 11 hits along with five RBIs.

Baltimore's Gunnar Henderson hit a towering 414-foot home run in the seventh inning, and Adley Rutschman had three hits.

Griffin Canning (1-3)—who allowed 18 runs (17 earned) in 19 innings in his first four starts—gave up three runs on five hits in five innings and struck out four. It was the right-hander's first win in 11 starts dating to last season.

Teams often misfire on drafting QBs; how often do they fail and why?

By DAVE CAMPBELL
and JOSH DUBOW
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITERS



The Minnesota Vikings need a quarterback in this draft. That much is easy

to see. The hard part is picking the right one—and determining what it's worth to them to get him.

With this top-flight class—featuring Caleb Williams, Jayden Daniels, Drake Maye and J.J. McCarthy—the Vikings are poised to set up their future with the 11th and 23rd overall picks that could be packaged together for a move into the top five.

But they realize, no matter how well set up they are for a rookie with a quarterback-friendly coach in Kevin O'Connell and a superstar wide receiver in Justin Jefferson, there is no guarantee in this highly calculated yet no-better-than-a-coin-flip exercise of finding that franchise player in the NFL.

"I think our odds will be better than the margins. How good are those odds? Obviously, it's still a pretty risky thing," third-year general manager Kwesi Adofo-Mensah said. "But just because something's risky doesn't mean you're scared of it."

Teams are using premium draft picks on quarterbacks at an increasingly high rate. This draft is slated to be the eighth in the past nine years with at least three QBs taken in the first round, which matches the number of times that happened in the first 38 years of the common draft era.

Quarterbacks could go with the top three picks for the fourth



Fans celebrate with UCLA's Josh Rosen, center right, after Rosen was selected by the Arizona Cardinals during the first round of the NFL football draft, Thursday, April 26, 2018, in Arlington, Texas.

time ever with Chicago, Washington and New England all sorely in need of a passer who can turn the fortunes of a franchise. This draft could break a record with four quarterbacks possibly going in the top nine picks. The over-under for total QBs taken in the first round is set at 4 1/2 by BetMGM Sportsbook with Michael Penix and Bo Nix also under consideration for other QB-needy teams outside the top 10 like Denver and Las Vegas.

But for every Patrick Mahomes, there is a Josh Rosen. "I think it would be hard to point to the results and say we've made progress, as sad as that is," NFL Network draft analyst Daniel Jeremiah said. "The more you look at it, I think there's more attention being paid now to maybe more so the environment than the actual quarterback, and knowing

how to set the table for when you do take the quarterback, that he can be successful."

Never mind whether the player is a rhythm pocket passer, adept at ad-libbing, or somewhere in between.

"Different styles, that's not something to get carried away with. To me, it's more a focus of, 'Do we have the right play caller, the right offensive line to protect him, and do we have some guys he can get the ball to?'" Jeremiah said. "I think that seems to be what's going to lead to these guys being a success or not."

The Vikings are banking on that.

"When we talk about these players, it's not just how good are they. It's how do we get the best version of themselves if they come to the Minnesota Vikings? We set up plans before they walk in the build-

ing," Adofo-Mensah said. "I think our odds will be better than the margins."

Still, the league-wide hit rate remains largely a tossup.

From the start of the rookie wage scale era in the 2011 draft through 2022, 38 quarterbacks have been drafted in the first round. Those QBs have essentially played at slightly below league-average rates early in their careers with a passer rating 1.5 points below league average over their first three seasons.

Twenty of those QBs were allowed to leave their original teams without even reaching the relatively low bar of receiving a second contract, with 2021 second overall pick Zach Wilson the latest after being traded by the New York Jets to Denver on Monday.

Only five earned first- or second-team All-Pro honors. Only eight have led their teams

to multiple playoff wins so far.

"I feel like it's really hard to evaluate quarterbacks, but you just try to get better and try to understand what you did the last time that was really good and what you did last time that was really bad," said Commanders first-year general manager Adam Peters, who is aiming for better success picking a QB at No. 2 this year than he had as assistant GM in San Francisco when the 49ers took Trey Lance third overall in 2021. "It's constantly evolving, and I don't think anybody has the magic pill to understand that one. If they do let me know, I'll hire them."

The majority of those busts provided two seasons or fewer as regular starters as teams quickly moved on from failures like Jake Locker, Johnny Manziel, Paxton Lynch and of course Rosen, who spent time with a whopping seven teams over five years after Arizona traded up five spots to take him 10th overall in 2018.

Several teams were quickly forced back on the quarterback draft carousel. There were eight instances of a team using

another first-round pick on a quarterback in the ensuing four drafts, including the Cardinals, who traded away Rosen after one year and took Kyle Murray first overall in 2019.

Chicago and New England could add to that count at the top of this draft with the Bears widely expected to draft Williams at No. 1 overall after trading away 2021 first-round QB Justin Fields and New England possibly using the third pick on a replacement for 2021 first-rounder Mac Jones.

Getting a quarterback worthy of a second contract is no sign of success with many of those being no better than a mid-level performer like Daniel Jones, Ryan Tannehill, Blake Bortles and Carson Wentz.

"I think it's probably the most, probably the toughest position of all professional sports to play," said Packers general manager Brian Gutekunst, whose franchise has enjoyed a more than 30-year uninterrupted run of top-flight QB play from Brett Favre to Aaron Rodgers to Jordan Love. "You never really know until you have that time to try to develop a guy, whether he's going to be able to do it at a high level or not. So, it's just a tough league to excel at that position, for sure."

But the success stories are the reason why teams keep coming back with the hope of getting their franchise-lifting quarterback, like Mahomes, Josh Allen, Lamar Jackson or Joe Burrow.

Five of the seven teams with the best odds to win the Super Bowl, according to BetMGM Sportsbook, are led by a quarterback they selected in the first round. Nine of the last 10 AP NFL MVPs are first-round quarterbacks with their original teams.

"I think there's risk obviously," Broncos coach Sean Payton said. "There's no certainty or else we'd be fantastic with the draft."

TANIA

From page 16

glad I got to achieve both! I'm super happy that I broke my 10,000m PR and am honored to have broken another NMI record."

As for how the season's been so far, she said it's

been good and busy. She has been racing and traveling every other weekend on top of school work. She said she's "also been a bit stressed with school recently as finals are approaching. And I also have a part-time job so it's been a bit stressful balancing training, racing, schoolwork,

missing classes for races, and my job."

Tan is racing this weekend at Oregon State University and the Big West Outdoor Track Championships in about two weeks.

With two gold and a national 5,000m record to boot in the 2023 Pacific Games,

she will be competing at the Oceania Athletics Championships in Suva, Fiji from June 4-8, and the Micronesian Games from June 15-24.

"I'm super excited to represent the NMI. Thank you to NMA for giving me this opportunity once again. Always an honor!" said Tan.

SAVEMORE

From page 16

started it off with a three from Getsen Jandoc.

Savemore then began to find their rhythm while making it difficult for Premier Builders to get accurate shots. Then, with the help of Mark Malinay's crucial four back-to-back free throws toward the end of the game, it sealed their Game 1 win by a 6-point margin.

Savemore's Julius Domine dominated with a game-high 24 markers, followed by Malinay's 19, and Jandoc's 10.

Premier Builders' Jerome Directo's efforts totaled 15 points, while John Mejarito contributed 12, and Jomari Dela Cruz and Carlo Castillo both put up 9.

In the nightcap, Choju crushed Yuman, 87-76, to get a one-game lead.

Choju quickly overtook Yuman in the first half as everyone contributed to the cause. Their lead increasingly ballooned to the double digits after each fastbreak shot and ended the half with a 14-point lead, 40-26.

It was a failing effort for Yuman in the second half as Cho-

ju's leading scorers, Junior Aguon and Jay Art Palmes, were a duo that wrecked the basket with each shot. Aguon led the team to victory with 24 points, while Palmes posted 15, and Dion Lizama scored 11.

Yuman's Carl Aldan scored 20, Justine Enano had 13 points, and Sean Licayan had 12 markers.

Catch the games tonight as Premier Builders take on Yuman and Savemore battles Choju.

Savemore 72 – Domine 24, Malinay 19, Jandoc 10, Hi-

polito 8, Antonio 5, Martin 2, Macaraig 2, Sapo 2.

Premier Builders 66 – Directo 15, Mejarito 12, Dela Cruz 9, Castillo 9, Godoy 8, Villocero 4, Yanto 4, Peredo 3, Didulo 2.

Scoring by halves: 41-40, 72-66.

Choju 87 – J. Aguon 24, Palmes 15, Lizama 11, Satur 9, H. Aguon 8, Santos 8, Faisao 6, Mamis 6.

Yuman 76 – Aldan 20, Enano 13, Licayan 12, Nuyles 11, Atencio 7, Magno 5, Cristobal 4, Agustin 2, Itibus 2.

Scoring by halves: 40-26, 87-76.

TAIYO

From page 16

When asked whether he'll compete in the 2024 Micronesian Games, he said he won't as he'll be busy applying for college.

As the team wrapped up their last events last night, head coach Richard Sikkel said he's happy with the team's performance. "Everyone swam several personal bests. We managed to reset a few records, but more importantly gained more experience in terms of race prep and race readiness," he said.

Sikkel added that, while "the records are cool and validation for the swimmers that their practice bears fruit,

the camaraderie amongst the team members and other Oceania nations is what makes these events special. Lifelong friendships are forged during these events."

For himself, he said that, "it was great to catch up with other coaches, especially coach Bill Sakovich."

His personal favorite in the championships was seeing Akimaru set a new record as "he didn't really focus on breaststroke until we changed his stroke for the Pacific Games, and to see him shave seconds off his previous time is pretty special. He is such a hard worker and he deserves to reap the rewards of that hard work."



Doncic, Irving lead Mavs over Clippers to tie series as Leonard returns.
PAGE 13

Saipan Tribune Sports

Teams often misfire on drafting QBs; how often do they fail and why?.
PAGE 15



16 THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Taiyo breaks 50m breaststroke age group record



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
File photo shows Taiyo Akimaru swimming during his preliminary session in the 2023 Pacific Games in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

Tania resets NMI 10,000m record, PB

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Dynamic track-star Tania Tan continues to etch her name in the record books as she reset the NMI 10,000m record—which is also her personal best during the Bryan Clay Invitational held last April 12-13 in Azusa, California.

She posted a 36:48.49 and shaved off a few seconds from the previous record and her personal best time of 37:10.89. Tan set that PB last May during the Atlantic 10 Outdoor Track & Field Championships at the University of Massachusetts during her senior year at Fordham University in New York.

Tan and fellow UH Rainbow Wahine runners posted more Big West leading and program Top 10 marks. The 23-year-old ranked No. 6 with her time.



Now a graduate student at the University of Hawaii'i at Mānoa, she is still in great running form heading toward the end of the season. She has two more meets before she wraps up her debut in the Aloha State. Heading into the meet, Tan said that her goal was to break her personal record—and got more than she bargained for as she also set the NMI 10,000m record. With that, she said, "I'm

See TANIA on Page 15



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

File photo shows Tania Tan running through a course during the cross country season in at the University of Hawaii'i at Mānoa.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Taiyo Akimaru made like a dolphin and swam to the CNMI 50m breaststroke 17-18 age group record during his stint in the Oceania Swimming Championships 2024 held at the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre, in Southport, Queensland, Australia last Tuesday.

The Marianas High School senior clocked in at 31.51 seconds in the finals, beating the old record of 31.62 seconds set by Rezne Wong. In the prelims, Akimaru set a personal best time of 31.83 seconds before improving it in the finals. Akimaru also set a new PB in the 50m freestyle with a time of 25.41 seconds and reached the finals.



Along with his achievements, his fellow swimmers also set some personal records in their respective events.

Savita Sikkell recorded a new PB in the 50m breaststroke with a time of 39.83. Jinie Thompsen swam it at 40.10 seconds, and Nagi Tenorio recorded 43.61 seconds.

Michael Miller also set a new PB in the 50m breaststroke and clocked in at 36.19 seconds, and a new PB in the 100m butterfly with a time of 1:09.79.

Moshe Sikkell recorded a new PB in the 200m backstroke at 2:30.58, and Piper Raho recorded a 2:44.97 200m backstroke.

Yesterday, Tenorio's time of

36.80 seconds was a PB in the 50m freestyle, while Savita also set a new PB with a time of 31.30 seconds.

The 18-year-old Akimaru said about breaking the record, "[it] felt good when I broke the record. All the other swimmers that swam with me really pushed me to swim fast." As for the competition, Akimaru said it was fun and that his goal was to beat his best time, with the record in the way to his PB.

Akimaru is a graduating senior and is on the hunt for a college where he can continue to swim and hopefully, he can pass on skills to the next generation of swimmers.

See TAIYO on Page 15

Savemore, Choju conquer foes in semis

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Savemore and Choju conquered their foes in the double-elimination semis of the Legends Sports Association Invitational Basketball League Season 2 last Tuesday at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

Savemore gained the upper hand with a win against Premier Builders, 72-66.

In an intense showdown



LEIGH GASES

Savemore's Julius Domine hoists a 3-pointer during their double-elimination semis match in the Legends Sports Association Invitational Basketball League Season 2 last Tuesday at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

that had everyone on the edge of their seats, both teams filled up the first half to the brim with thrilling twists and turns at the basket. It was an even matchup with high energy and fiercely contested shots, which resulted in a close 41-40 first half in favor of Savemore.

Premier Builders tried to build on their momentum from last Sunday's win as they came out with an early run, but Savemore's saving grace was from the 3-point line.

In the first half alone, a bulk of their shots were made from 3-point range, with six connections. Savemore carried their sharpshooting ways in the second half and

See SAVEMORE on Page 15